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Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-045
Thursday
9 March 1989

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Cuba

Revised U.S. Draft Described as 'Unacceptable'

FL0803223389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2214 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Cuban Foreign Vice Minister Raul Roa Kouri has asserted that the revised version of the U.S. draft presented today by the UK at the UN Human Rights Commission is unacceptable for our country. He said this was a maneuver of bad taste. During an interview granted to PRENSA LATINA, shortly after learning about the contents of the attempted revision announced as a pretext to postpone the voting on the report of a commission delegation that visited Cuba last year, the diplomat stated that the text of the document makes evident that there is no interest to seek a consensus, but rather to pressure.

Roa Kouri explained that the changes introduced only propose that the subject of the alleged violation of human rights in Cuba not be analyzed under topic 12 of the agenda, as the original asked, but that the commission should decide next year under which topic it would be considered. He said the revision does not show a willingness to negotiate inasmuch as it doesn't even get close to the other document proposed by four Latin American countries negotiated by them with the EEC which contains points accepted by Cuba in the negotiation but not proposed by it. [sentence as heard]

Vote on Human Rights Report on Cuba Postponed

FL0803211889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The UN Human Rights Commission decided today to postpone until tomorrow the vote on two drafts regarding a report on Cuba. The decision was made after the UK representative announced that he handed a revised version of the original draft which was presented by several Western countries. Spain supported the request because it considered that it would help the congress although it does not have knowledge of the contents of the revision. For its part, Cuba explained that it did not oppose the postponement of the vote so that a consensus could be reached.

French First Lady To Make 3-Day Visit

FL0803035089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0013 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Mrs Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the French president, will arrive in Havana tomorrow for a 3-day private visit at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Cuba will be the penultimate stage of the French first lady's Latin American tour after having visited Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, and Nicaragua and before going to Haiti. Danielle Mitterrand will meet with the Cuban president and will also visit several installations in the area of childhood, education, and medicine. She will travel to the Isle of Youth, where several thousand Third World students work. She will also go to Santiago de Cuba from where she will leave for Haiti.

First Lady Arrives

FL0903015889 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Danielle Mitterrand, wife of French President Francois Mitterrand, arrived in our country this afternoon on an unofficial visit which is part of a Latin American and Caribbean tour. The French first lady was welcomed by Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women; Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers; and Jose Raul Viera, foreign vice president.

Mrs Mitterrand will stay in Cuba for 3 days during which she will tour various centers of scientific, social, and historic interest in Havana, Isle of Youth, and Santiago de Cuba.

Danielle Mitterrand is touring six Latin American and Caribbean countries as part of the activities marking the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution. She already visited Uruguay, Ecuador, Peru, and Nicaragua. After her stay in our country, Mrs Mitterrand will leave for Haiti, the last part of her tour. [passage omitted]

Burkinabe Minister in Nation for Joint Meeting

FL0603191189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Burkina Faso's minister of planning and cooperation [as heard] is in our country. Our reporter Fritz Suarez Silva gives us this report on the first meeting of the joint commission.

[Begin recording] [Suarez] The first meeting of the joint commission between Burkina Faso and Cuba was held today in the Protocol Room of Havana's Sierra Maestra Hotel.

The African country is being represented by Planning and Development Minister Youssouf Ouedraogo, while the Cuban Government is being represented by Justice Minister Juan Escalona Reguera.

The objective of this third intergovernmental joint commission is to increase bilateral cooperation.

[Benitez] [Noemi Benitez Mendoza, director of Unidentified Department within International Relations Directorate] Cooperation has been increasing. At the moment we have a medical brigade in the country which is located in four different regions. We also have Cuban cooperation workers in the agricultural and educational sectors, as well as the INDER [National Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute]. There is also a Burkina Faso-Cuba cooperation group that is reconstructing a ceramics factory.

Among the different cooperation programs offered to Burkina Faso are scholarships—this is to say the full education. We have hundreds of Burkinabe on the Isle of Youth, while others study in Havana and different parts of the country. We have also trained hundreds of Burkinabe in the various fields of the economic sector.

[Suarez] At the third [as heard] meeting of the Burkina Faso-Cuba joint commission, the bilateral ties are now stronger.

[Ouedraougo, in French with simultaneous Spanish translation] The cooperation between Burkina Faso and Cuba is young. It only goes back as far as the revolutionary process in Burkina Faso, 4 August 1983.

Despite the cooperation's youth, we have come to form a cooperation bond which is exemplary in the field of the south-south cooperation. [end recording]

Interview With Vice President Rodriguez

FL0803171989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Interview with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, by Miguel Rivero during "Open Agenda" program]

[Text] [Rivero] As we said, the south is no longer just a geographical concept. The South Commission is made up by a number of personalities from the Third World, it has studied a various matters that concern our countries, the underdeveloped countries.

"Open Agenda" is, today, broadcasting from the office of Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who has been a member of the South Commission since the very beginning.

Before beginning the interview, I wanted to read you a paragraph that deals with, in the document [not further identified], the objectives and duties of the South Commission. It talks about the purpose of this commission. It reads: This is the first time that a group of thinkers and men of action—who come exclusively from the south and widely reflect the interests and conditions of the various regions and countries that make up the Third World —apply their collective thoughts, during a certain amount of time, to the matters concerning a continuous, autonomous, and people oriented development. This is to say, a development that is socially just, economically efficient, and ecologically safe.

Dr Carlos Rafael, what objectives does the South Commission pursue and how did the idea for the creation of this commission arise? Talk to us about the projects that you have done with this.

[Rodriguez] This idea has existed for a long time in the international sector and many countries have taken in this concept for a long time.

Around 1986, in a meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Third World scholars discussed the possibility to form an organizing committee to create a commission from the south. In this sense, we elected Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed to preside over this group.

This group worked for some time and it looked like, among all the leaders, Nyerere [former Tanzanian President Julius Kambarage Nyerere] stood out for many reasons. For these reasons then, he was chosen to head the South Commission. This idea was discussed and presented by Mahathir Mohamed at the Harare Conference to the heads of the nonaligned countries and Nyerere was unanimously supported for this position and he accepted the position he was offered. Nyerere then began a long search throughout the southern regions to find commissioners. He wanted people that were first, known personalities in their area of work and second, willing to actively dedicate themselves for 3 years, which is the amount of time designated for this activity, to search for answers to the situation in the southern region.

To get an idea of the commission's nature, we have to see the representatives from the various areas. I would like to cite the ones from Latin America because they are the most well known to us. From Latin America there are, as commissioners to the South Commission, people such as Carlos Andres Perez, who was just elected president of Venezuela; Michael Manley, who was just elected prime minister of Jamaica; there is also Shridath Ramphal, who as you know is secretary of the British Commonwealth of Guyana.

There are also three [as heard] eminent Brazilians.The first one is Celso Furtado, who at that time was culture minister for the Brazilian Government and is one of the best known economists in Latin America. There is also Cardinal (Paolo Avaristo Anch), who recently wrote a letter—which caused quite a stir—to Comrade Fidel Castro—it was a beautiful letter—and who represents an important sector of the South American Church.

Another important personality to Latin America is—at that time he was foreign minister for Uruguay—Enrique Iglesias. Presently, he is the president of the Inter-American Development Bank. There is also Jorge Navarrete, who was Mexican ambassador in London and who has just been reassigned by the new government as Mexican Ambassador to China. There is Aldo Ferrer, the well known Argentine economist. I promise that I will not present something now to the listeners from our country. [sentence as heard]

The representation from Latin America characterizes the representation from the other regions. For example, as Asian commissioner, of Asian origin, there is (Abdul Sallah) of Pakistan, Nobel Prize winner for theoretical physics and director of the International School of Theoretical Physics in Trieste. There is also the well known (Gamani Corea), who as you well know was secretary of the UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development] for some time and a well known personality, not just in his region but the entire world.

You can also include (Tupola Efi) who is the prime minister of Samoa, a remote island far away from us, but an outstanding person from Asia. Also, (Abdu'Latif Salaman), who is the president of the Arab Fund for International Development and was minister of commerce and international economic affairs for his country. He is well known in all the international sectors because he has participated in many conferences and has had an important role in each one. He is a very notable person from Asia.

Also, from Africa, there is a select group of prominent Africans. For example, there is the director of SAEDEC, the South African Economic Development Commission [preceding name in English], (Sande Makomba), who is a very promising, young man who is admired by the younger Africans. There is also (Paiye Rokimbo), (Eneas Kominche), who is from Mozambique.

If we examine the group of personalities we understand the meaning of the commission. The commission is the voice of the south. There have been many international studies on the world situation. However, they have always used the ideas of the north. We have had, for some years now, the Pearson Commission, it is presided over by the Canadian Pearson, which did a study that was significant for those times, the times in which it was done. It arrived at the conclusion that if the south received adequate economic treatment, if unequal trade did not exist, the south would be able to finance everything it needed to develop its resources. However, there is also the famous Brant Commission.

[Rivero] There are two members of the South Commission...

[Rodriguez, interrupting] There are two members of the South Commission on it; Ramphal and Manley are members of the Brant Commission. Also, Yaker is on it.

[Rivero] He is the Algerian.

[Rodriguez] Yes, he is the Algerian. He is the exsecretary of commerce for Algeria and very well known in Cuba because he has had very direct relations and ties with our country. He has also been President of numerous international commissions, UN commissions. So in this sense, he is well known internationally and is a member of both commissions.

For the first time, the south has a voice. For the first time, the problems of the world are seen from the south's point of view, taking into account the anguishes of the south, the known deficiencies of the south, the servitude the south had been forced into, the weak areas of the south, the south's hopes, and the south's aspirations. So then, the commission works from this stand point.

[Rivero] Nyerere said in one of his speeches on the commission's job, even after he had been nominated for the Presidency, that he was worried that the commission's evaluations and reports would not end up on the desks of government representatives. He was afraid that it would only be used as study material for the universities.

[Rodriguez] Well, that has been one of our worries because to write a book is relatively easy, books on the differences between north and south have been edited several times. I have given the point of view from which we analyze matters many times. That makes a lot of noise for a while, a short while. Generally, although they are esteemed opinions, the book ends up in a drawer or in a library.

There is something else that has worried us since the beginning, this is the problem of mobilizing the south. The commission would not fulfill its duties if it did not mobilize the south's public opinion, the opinion of the workers, peasants, middle classes, intellectuals, scientists, and the outstanding men and women of these countries.

The commission does not only try to influence the opinion of governments, it tries to get governments to respond but with the support of its people. If this is not achieved, our work is not done. This objective is not easily achieved. The south is going through a truly, I do not like to say this but I have to, pessimistic time because, in the last few years, it has been battered often. This has been a lost decade for the south; actually more than that it has been a decade of regression for the south. It has been a decade which has also caused certain skepticism from the south with respect to the north being able to understand its problems.

At the same time, there are a number of possibilities in the international sector that give us a little hope that in the future things will not be the same, and that the struggle is needed now to mobilize the south. This is important during this time.

If we see how everything that has happened these last few years is negatively influencing the south, we will be able to understand why, even in the Nonaligned Movement, people say that the new international economic order is an ancient word and that we should no longer work with the idea of the new international economic order.

You may remember that the 1970's were the years in which it looked like the south was destined for a change, the years in which international financial changes permitted the south to make its own efforts for development. These were unsuccessful efforts that were badly executed at the hands of inept governments. During this time, international prices... [changes thought] the price of oil had an important flash in its life. It was the time of petrodollars which the United States used to finance its internal resources and to create, along with the eurodollars, a permanent excessive financial situation which created the foreign debt and gave the banks the idea to place their finances in Latin America and the underdeveloped world.

Those were times in which the south had ammunition. There were times in which, at the UN headquarters in 1974, the new international economic order was approved. This new economic order was discussed at the Algiers Conference. There, with the presence of Fidel and other important Third World leaders, an action program directed at the new economic order was approved. Boumedienne presented this program at the United Nations and it was approved by almost everyone. I say almost everyone because the United States rejected it. This was proof of Washington's intentions and permanent interests against the development of the Third World. There were other countries that also expressed caution, but in general, the new international economic order plan received international support.

In that same year, the United Nations approved the States' Rights and Duties Charter which was proposed by Mexican President Echevarria and which also meant an understanding of the developed countries' duties toward the Third World. All of this, however, has ended in a great disillusionment. We have been fighting for the new international economic order for 15 years and this has caused many people to think that the new international economic order should not be used. However, none of the elements of the new international economic order has been used. They have not approved the elimination of unequal trade, or the permanent flow of resources from the financial centers to the countries that are developing, nor has development been established as an objective for the new international economic order.

It is not at this time that we should withdraw the idea of a new international economic order as a program. On the contrary, we should at this time fight even more, deliberately, for the new international economic order. We should also unite the forces of the south to use it in achieving the new economic order and tell the north, in its plan of action, to take the new international economic order as one of its obligations.

[Rivero] In reference to the Nonaligned Movement, is there a tie between the movement and the South Commission?

[Rodriguez] Well, there is not an organic link because, as you have just seen, this committee is independent. This committee came about from an independent action by a group of people who are looking for the support of the Nonaligned Movement. They are using the Nonaligned Movement as a point of reference. At our meetings we are constantly talking about the Nonaligned Movement as one of the catalytic forces of the Third World and the south. So, even though it is independent, although it is not organically linked to the Nonaligned Movement, the fact that its organizers have decided to consult the movement at the Harare conference on the matter of designating Nyerere as the main figure to direct the South Commission shows the importance given the Nonaligned Movement by the commission.

[Rivero] Don't you think that, now that some of the euphoria of the petrodollar age has gone, there are better conditions for the south to unite a little more during these hard times?

[Rodriguez] Well, these are good times to unite, but it is also a bad situation to unite in. It is better to unite with petrodollars than without them, but I think that the conscience of the south is progressing as its unfortunate situation increases. We see this in the foreign debt crisis. Fidel talked about the debt early on at the Buenos Aires Conference, later when he spoke at the United Nations in 1979 as president of the Nonaligned Movement. He talked about it at a time in which it was less than half of what it is today. He talked about the great importance in finding a solution to the crisis.

Back then this didn't mean much so Fidel met with the intellectuals, the workers, the clergy, and with Latin American personalities. Cuba's idea that the foreign debt was unpayable sounded like a gunshot at an international conference. That proposal seemed excessive and many did not believe it. Today, you hear people talk about it in every corner of the world, and I say every corner because people do not speak modestly now about the debt being unpayable. I have heard many leaders of state refer to the debt in this way. Naturally, this is due to the fact that with every passing day we realize more and more the tragedy the foreign debt represents for the Third World countries and the need to solve this crisis as a precursor for development. This way we would solve the problems of development linked to the foreign debt.

This is the same with everything else, such as the new international economic order and unequal trade. Unequal trade, in 1970, seemed to be defeated because the oil-producing countries controlled the price of oil and the prices of some of the raw materials were reexamined to the point that significant prices were attained, although never the adequate prices. But all of this fell and the tragedy came back, the drop in oil price. It is not like it was back then, but the price has dropped by more than half.

The prices of the other industrial products produced by the north continue to increase. Inflation has caused a constant increase in the prices of industrial products. However, the prices of the agricultural products, the raw materials, have had a resounding fall. The price of sugar, for example, is now said to have gone up because it is at ten centavos. However, the dollar has dropped, the buying power of the dollar has gone down. The buying power of the dollar has gone down over 40 percent. When the dollar goes up, the price of sugar goes down; but when the dollar drops 10 centavos of a dollar now, this represents 5 or 6 centavos 2 years ago. So it's not that the price of sugar is going up, it is that the buying power of the dollar has dropped. This is felt in our countries' economies and it is felt in the price of coffee, cocoa, copper, and all the fundamental products of the Third World.

[Rivero] What is discussed at the meetings? Has it been considered by the commission? [question as heard]

[Rodriguez] We wanted to publish a book about all of our work, but we did not give the book the exclusive role it played in the Brant Report. We thought it was necessary that while the book was being edited, while we were discussing the final aspects before publishing it, that the South Commission should examine some of the fundamental problems of our time. Of course, there is no problem more fundamental, if things can be referred to grammatically as being more fundamental than others, than the foreign debt problem. We dedicated two work sessions to discussing a document which could serve as a reference point of the South Commission's view on the foreign debt problem. Here it is. This is the declaration on the foreign debt.

[Rivero] Hmm.

[Rodriguez] It was carefully drawn up and, I think, the most important thing about the declaration is that for the first time in an organization of this type—in an international meeting of this nature—the report refers to a forum of debtors. Here in Latin America we have a forum of debtors. In this report we propose a forum of debtors made up of chiefs of government who can discuss the debt crisis and can create conditions for a global analysis of the debt from the debtors point of view not from that of the creditors.

In Latin America we have had some institutions that try to represent the debtors. For example, there is the Cartagena Consensus formed by the Latin American governments, the most important owing governments. It began to function and now it has practically dissolved. Why? Because the Cartagena Consensus began to state the problems taking into account the north's good nature. They believed that all that was required was the south's appeal and the north would answer in a positive way. Those were those little letters they asked Fidel for during the meeting of the debtor countries here in Havana.

They began to send messages, very important messages from the south. I remember that under Sanguinetti's presidency it was agreed to send the 10 united countries in Europe this message. However, there was no answer to the message. The message was sent by certified mail and the receipt was received, but that was all. There was no answer. Why? Because the north is not ready yet to answer our needs. This is why we have to mobilize the south and organize the tremendous strength the south has before the north begins to answer.

[Rivero] But now it looks like there are some changes happening in the north. There are some worries.

[Rodriguez] Well, the world is beginning to have a different international situation than it did 2 or 3 years ago. The possibilities for peace and disarmament are beginning to appear. Naturally this is very important and I think we are all interested in this. We should support, and give the firmest of support, to the main person making this effort; Comrade Gorbachev, people in the CPSU Secretariat, and the president of the Supreme Soviet.

Of course it is important for the world to have peace. If peace exists, it has to exist via disarmament. If disarmament exists, there can be funds that will not be destined for the arsenals. These funds, for some time now.... [changes thought] Fidel Castro, for example, has proposed using funds from disarmament to pay for the foreign debt. This would prevent the collapse of the international financial system when the debt is not paid. I think that there are possibilities for the world to be a world of talks and not confrontations. I am not just talking about the Reagan-Gorbachev agreements signed in Washington to limit intermediate-range missiles, I mean bigger possibilities, such as a 50 percent reduction of nuclear weapons. I am talking about getting rid of normal weapons, weapons...

[Rivero, interrupting] Conventional weapons.

[Rodriguez] I am talking about getting rid of conventional weapons, which has been discussed in Vienna. All of this creates a new international atmosphere. This atmosphere, once it stops being a confrontational one, promotes agreements. However, the north is not completely ready for this yet. When I refer to the north you should remember that there are two norths; we must not forget this and the South Commission keeps it in mind. There is the capitalist north and there is the socialist north. The views of the capitalist north and the socialist north toward the Third World are not the same.

The socialist north has understood the Third World's problems. Many times it has expressed solidarity and agreed with the arguments presented by the Third World at international fora. However, the north as such, the capitalist north has some people that are beginning to think in terms of time. For example, President Mitterrand has made certain statements that permit us to say that he is beginning to understand the south's situation. He has talked about the foreign debt in relation to countries that are developing and the need to help them develop. This shows an understanding of the Third World's needs.

However, when we refer to the north in the sense of a fundamental problem we are referring to the United States. Even though Baker appears to be a bit different than his predecessors...

[Rivero, interrupting] At least he talks about the foreign debt.

[Rodriguez] He talks about the foreign debt, he talks about the importance of the foreign debt, and he talks about the need to talk with Latin America about the foreign debt. But there is still a long way to go before the north understands the south's problems. This is one of the things that we, in the South Commission, are trying to resolve because even though the South Commission is part of the south, it does not forget the north. We know that there is a north-south relation which cannot be avoided.

The south cannot develop on its own. It does not have the technological scope which it has a right to have and has a need to have without help from the north, which is where the most advanced and modern international technology is accumulated. To achieve the most advanced and modern technology you need financing, and the south does not have enough resources to finance itself. The south can accumulate strength and resources to improve its situation and that is what we are trying to do with south-south relations. But for the south to develop, for the south to give a qualitative jump it is necessary to have financing. So for all of this to occur, there must be a new understanding, a new situation. One of the South Commission's jobs is to do this through the south's mobilization, and stressed arguments on this problem.

You asked me if we discussed problems other than the foreign debt. I want to tell you that some of the other problems we have discussed—as part of the process we have proposed for ourselves to bring to light important, contemporary problems before publishing the book with the results of our work—was the matter of the Uruguayan round. [Words indistinct] in Montreal. Before the Montreal meeting, we made a study to send the governments, [words indistinct] is a document that was directed to the governments of the south, where we studied the problems of the Uruguayan round and we examined the south's objectives in that round.

I can tell you that the proposals made by Cuba and the proposals made by the Uruguayan round were almost identical. When Cuba presented its document, it was satisfied because it saw many of its ideas confirmed by international groups. It was not only studied by the commissioners but by technical groups that aided the commissioners in studying the problems of the Uruguayan round. One of the characteristics of the South Commission is that not only do the commissioners work on these proposals, they also assign various personalities of different international political and economic centers to examine the problems that are going to be submitted to the analysis of the commission. In the foreign debt analysis there was a very noted group of personalities. Among them was (Agramubi), one of the most distinguished [words indistinct] in the foreign debt.

So you can see that we are working on problems and theories that help us to mobilize the south. We are working on matters that permit us to elevate the conscience of the [words indistinct] to the south's needs to work, at the moment, on its mobilization, cohesion, and internal unity.

[Rivero] I saw that in the document referring to the foreign debt, it stated that, in history, the north—this north—had had a problem like this.

[Rodriguez] Sure. There have been collapses by the debt which have never been paid. Its not the first time that someone comes up with the idea that the debt is unpayable. There have been debts that have not been paid, not just in the 19th century but the 20th century as well. In the 1930's there were debts in Latin America that were not paid. The repairs owed to Germany by the allies after World War I were never paid either. (Caines) [not further identified] referred to the problems with Germany's reconstruction as a noose that was imposed on the Germans. Naturally, these are precedents that give us encouragement and prove that the debt is unpayable. When I say this I am not talking as a member of the commission, because the commission has not yet achieved unity on this topic. I am still a minority of almost one when we deal with the problem of the inability to pay the debt. When I say this, I am speaking as a Cuban, as part of the Cuban position on the matter of the foreign debt.

[Rivero] Let's go back a bit to the Latin American problem. Recently Caracas was the site of a partial meeting of the commissioners and you have two commissioners, one of which is a head of government and the other one is chief of state. I wanted to know if these two commissioners, seeing the great responsibility they have, demonstrated their interest in working within the commission.

[Rodriguez] Of course they have. The commissioners will continue to be members of the commission. I can tell you that Carlos Andres Perez, as well as Michael Manley have received moral support from their commission colleagues in their fight to become president of the Republic of Venezuela and prime minister of Jamaica, respectively. We have great confidence that with their reaching those positions in Latin America, the commission's work would become stronger, not only in Latin America because both Carlos Andres Perez and Manley are international personalities. They are well known and noted figures.

Carlos Andres Perez is one of the better known people of Latin America. His dynamic character has been valuable to the work he has done in the commission. He is the one who accompanied Nyerere on almost all of his travels when Nyerere began looking for Latin American commissioners. Carlos Andres is one of the ones who most encouraged Nyerere to look for funding for the commission. As you can see, he is one of the commissioners who has been most active despite his own electoral campaign.

For example, in the last meeting in Kuwait, Carlos Andres Perez was there. He was only able to be there for 1 day, but he was there despite the fact that it was only a couple of weeks before the elections in Venezuela. This shows the firmness with which Carlos Andres Perez pursues his duties in the commission.

Naturally, the fact that we now have, in addition to the Samoan prime minister who is also important, the president of Venezuela and the prime minister of Jamaica. They add a great force to the commission. Latin America's role, with these two commissioners, will be very important.

[Begin video clip recording] [Narrator] Perez invited a group of commission members, basically Latin Americans, to a special program in honor of his inauguration. Besides Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Julius Nyerere, president of the South Commission; Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank; Aldo Ferrer of Argentina; Celso Furtado of Brazil; Jorge Eduardo Navarrete of Mexico; and others, were present at the inauguration.

[Unidentified Speaker] I think that one of the things the commission could do, and this is my personal opinion, is to study some of the problems that affect us at present. This would be a good occasion since everyone is meeting in Caracas. I think it is a good [passage indistinct].

[Narrator] The South Commission, which is made up of political, economic, and social personalities, tries to achieve a strategy of [words indistinct] successfully the economic policies of the industrialized countries that, as we know, generate many problems in the economies of the underdeveloped countries. It especially adds to the load created by the payment of interests of the foreign debt and the imposing of an unjust and unequal international trade. [end recording]

[Rivero] Are there more favorable conditions for some of the South Commission's arguments in which Latin America would be taking the vanguard?

[Rodriguez] Well, Latin America, and I don't want to seem like a chauvinist, has the most important role in the Third World simply because it is a continent with the most development and more defined nations. There are African nations that are very important but are still divided into tribes and are having internal tribal problems which prevent them from developing in a national way. In Latin America, national development ended quite some time ago. In Latin America the nations are well defined, strong, and firm. Some of the nations have fairly advanced development. This is the case with Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina. They have strong economies that, even though they are underdeveloped, have a great capacity for resistance. This gives Latin America a singular role in the south.

[Rivero] But it is very close to the bastions of the north.

[Rodriguez] Yes, it is close to it and this proximity, as the Mexicans say is like being so far from God and so close to the United States. [laughter] We can say the same thing: Poor Latin America, so far from God and so close to the United States. [laughter]

So, being so close to the United States forces us to defend ourselves against the United States and to negotiate with the United States. At the moment, a new chapter, and the Latin Americans are very interested in this, of negotiation with the United States is opening. We don't want confrontations with the United States; if we can negotiate with them, good. It is better, not only for Latin America but Cuba as well, to have negotiations than confrontations. This should be based on mutual respect, lifting the blockade, and discussing the Guantanamo Base matter. Above all, however, it deals with negotiation and Latin America is in a position to negotiate with the United States and to play a very noted role in the Third World.

[Rivero] You have had the opportunity to accompany Comrade Fidel Castro to Mexico, Caracas—you were also in Quito right?

[Rodriguez] No, I wasn't in Quito.

[Rivero] You weren't in Quito? You were in Mexico and Caracas. Have you been able to personally see this type of attitude?

[Rodriguez] Well, I have personally seen this attitude, especially these past few days. Having personal contacts with Latin America permitted me to [words indistinct] was developing in Latin America since we began a type of democratic reconquest in Latin America when the military dictatorships began to fall. This also began when the people of Latin America began to show their force, because the fall of the military dictatorships did not come by the grace of God; it was a result of the struggle of the people which resulted in millions of dead in Argentina, Brazil and other countries throughout Latin America. So we were seeing Latin America tied in with these effects with Fidel's presence in Quito, which was very important, Mexico and Caracas. [sentence as heard]

The mere fact that Fidel Castro is directly invited to the inaugurations is significant. It shows a spirit that had been seen before, such as the Acapulco conference. In Acapulco, for the first time, eight Latin American heads of state met, and for the first time there was a very important meeting of Latin American leaders without the presence of the United States. This says a lot because for the first time, Latin America spoke with its own voice on its own. This was also seen with the creation of SELA, Latin American Economic System, of which the United States was deliberately excluded. SELA is an organization for Latin Americans only. The SELA conference in Caracas, which I had the privilege to preside over, resulted in the Caracas Declaration which, along with the previously released Quito Declaration 2 years before, formed a Latin American spirit that included Fidel's presence.

I can say that in Mexico and Caracas, Fidel's presence was [words indistinct] in Caracas as you know, and this has been talked of much so I won't expand on it too much because we are drawing to the end of the program...

[Rivero, interrupting] No, we still have some time.

[Rodriguez] We still have time? Well, it was very emotional to see, in Caracas, the change of mood.

[Rivero] Was it fast?

[Rodriguez] It was immediate. I think they fell in their own trap. [as heard] For 30 years they slandered Cuba; for 30 years they slandered Fidel. They depicted Fidel as an arbitrary, despotic, [words indistinct] chief of state. In the last few years they have tried to present him as a decrepit, little old man. Suddenly Fidel turns up [words indistinct] and vigorous, with all of his faculties and the value of human quality seen in his eyes. So, Fidel's presence there was enough to make that facade, which had been built up for 30 years, fall down.

That is is exactly what happened. It was a victory. Fidel, and I'm saying this without any sense of nationalism, became the center of attention at the inauguration of Carlos Andres Perez, who was of course the main person and played the role of president-elect. After Carlos Andres Perez, however, Fidel was the outstanding Latin American personality on which the public's opinion focused. The television interviews were sometimes shown three times per day. The people were tied to the televisions because they couldn't go where Fidel was because we were locked into the framework of the occasion, which was a solemn celebration. Despite this, people tried to see Fidel and did get to see Fidel. This created moments of anguish for us because we would see Fidel squeezed in a multitude that didn't allow him to move. Above all, television was a great source of information about Fidel with all of the interviews, which also had an important effect on that country.

I think that Fidel, as I said, conquered Caracas.

[Rivero] What was the objective of the South Commission's Caracas meeting?

[Rodriguez] Carlos Andres Perez wanted to get the commission together informally. The Caracas meeting did not include all of the commissioners. You couldn't get all of the commissioners together because to be able to accomplish this you would have to notify everyone far in advance, and this was just after Carlos Andres' victory. However, an important group of commissioners met and at the meeting there were some important personalities that showed up and this strengthened the commission's job.

The visitors were two Latin American presidents ,—President Echevarria [former Mexican President Luis Echevarria Alvarez] and President Oduber [former Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber Quiros]. Also, OPEC's secretary general showed up at the meeting. We had the opportunity to exchange ideas on many matters, such as the foreign debt, matters of the south, development, the differences between the socialist north and the capitalist north, and how each of these relates to the problems of the south.

The meeting was enriched because of this. It was not a formal meeting but it was a meeting that was enriched by the presence of these other personalities which allowed us to deliberate, informally, on important aspects.

[Rivero] Is the next meeting in Maputo?

[Rodriguez] Yes, the next meeting is in Maputo.

[Rivero] What matters are expected to be discussed in Maputo?

[Rodriguez] Well, in Maputo we plan to continue examining the commission's fundamental problems. In Kuala Lumpur and Kuwait we already discussed the problems with north-south relations. We began to study, with concrete ideas and such, what the commission's final decision, the book we are going to publish, will be. We also discussed south-south relations. What is the condition of south-south cooperation? All of this will be examined in Maputo. We are also preparing specific questions that have not yet been presented to the commission, but which, as the result of subcommissions, will be presented within the next few days.

[Rivero] Do you expect the Maputo meeting to have some impact on the next meeting of the nonaligned countries?

[Rodriguez] We hope so. All the mobilization we are trying to achieve in the south.... [changes thought] [Words indistinct] and have not yet gotten because it is not an easy task, and I don't think that 27 men will be able to change the world. We are 27 men gathered there, some very important people of recognition and great significance. However, it is not possible for 27 men to change the world. We are part of a collective effort in which the Nonaligned Movement is included, as well as [words indistinct] in which important figures from the north are also participating in a positive and progressive way. Also included are the socialist counties with the changes they are experiencing, and this will change the way they look at the south's problems.

So you see, this is all part of a great effort. I think that the decisions, not just those in Maputo, of the entire commission will influence the decisions made by the leaders of the Nonaligned Movement countries.

[Rivero] The South Commission has an objective, not only to work with governments but also with the people.

[Rodriguez] It also has relations with the people. That is a task that we have not yet realized fully. I personally think that we need to mobilize the commission more and use its [words indistinct] of Nyerere, to present this in a larger forum than we have now. I think that you have given me the opportunity to address our people to stress the importance of the South Commission, but I don't think that Cuba needs these requirements. Our efforts in favor of the developing countries are continuous efforts. We have just finished an exemplary mission in Angola. The mission we completed in Africa is admired by all the countries of the world, especially those in development. We have extensive cooperation [passage indistinct] in scientific and technical material. We have thousands of Cubans working [words indistinct] example of south-south relations, and we are giving it. It does not deal with Cuba though, it deals with the mobilization of other countries and we should all concentrate on this task.

[Rivero] Well, I think we have practically worn out...

[Rodriguez, interrupting] No, worn out is too pretentious on our part. We have dealt with important subjects.

[Rivero] Well, not just that but the conclusion is that one of the objectives is to explain the commission's job. Up until now, the information we had was fragmentary. I think this program will give an idea of this.

[Rodriguez] I agree with you and I thank you very much for having made this effort and for me it has been very satisfactory, as commissioner, to be at the service of Cuba's public opinion by giving you these thoughts on the South Commission.

[Rivero] Thank you Dr Rodriguez.

Fernandez Attends Teachers Association Ceremony

FL0703141589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] The Association of Teachers of Cuba [Asociacion de Pedagogos de Cuba] was founded during a touching ceremony held at the Museum of Education in Havana. The main purpose of the association will be to group all professionals dedicated to teaching, research, and other activities related to pedagogical sciences to contribute to its development in our country. It will also permit the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of advanced ideas in the field of pedagogy.

Present at the ceremony were Jose Ramon Fernandez, minister of education; Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuban Central Committe; among other party leaders and prestigious figures of the Cuban Ministry of Education.

The provisional directive board is headed by Dr Lidia Turner, directress of the Education Sciences Central Institute. The closing speech was made by Dr Desi Rivero, vice president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences.

Vilma Espin Addresses FMC on 'Women's Day'

FL0703160589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1236 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Interview with Vilma Espin, member of the Communist Party of the Central Committee Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women, FMC, by reporters in Santiago de Cuba, date not given—recorded]

[Reporter] A few hours before celebrating 8 March [International Womens' Day], what is the main greeting you have for the FMC members on this day of solidarity with all the women of the world?

[Espin] [Words indistinct] I would like to say we have a fortunate country where all children can go to school, where there are doctors and medicine for everyone, where there is respect for human rights, unlike other countries. [passage indistinct] We must think about the difficult moments the underdeveloped countries are going through—even the developed countries—because it is there where the underprivileged are—those who do not have schooling, those who do not demand that human rights be respected, those who do not have the right to schools or doctors, and sometimes not even to food or a place to live.

In other words, there are terrible situations in many... [rephrases] in all the countries of the world. The situation of the underprivileged in capitalist countries is very critical, as well as in Latin American countries, and in Third World countries. The world crisis... [rephrases] the capitalists, undoubtedly, have created very difficult situations for the people. Over 400 people have just died in Venezuela. This is nothing more than a reflection of the significance of the debt, and how, if the governments try to pay it, the people will simply not accept it—to go through more hunger and misery.

The situation is very explosive. During these past few years, Fidel has warned about this. The situation is becoming explosive all over the world, our world, the underdeveloped world, our America. It is also very possible that very similar events will occur in other countries of America.

A terrible wave of violence has broken out in Colombia—assassinations. There is no respect for human life. The same thing is happening in Peru—maybe not as much as in Colombia. Nevertheless, the situation in these countries—in Central America, African countries, Asian countries—the poverty, hunger, and misery make us express our solidarity with those women and children. They are all currently suffering seriously from the severe consequences of the prolonged exploitation that has occurred throughout all these years, hundreds of years, and from the lack of hope that they have for the future.

Relations Between Community, Local Radio

FL0803160089 Havana Radio Taino in English 0145 GMT 8 March 89

[Text] [Unidentified announcer] The international shortwave broadcast of Radio Habana Cuba to national radio networks to local community stations in Cuba, radio is a popular and dramatic force in the world of communications. [sentence as heard] With a look at just one aspect, Taino reporter Tanya Jackson for our feature "Kaleidoscope:"

[Jackson] Cuba has a total of 55 radio stations, and of those, 31 are local community radio stations and, since 1983, the Cuban Institute for Radio and Television has been working to develop ties between those local stations and other community radio broadcasters throughout the world. Joining me today is Alfredo Perera, who has been instrumental in that kind of exchange, that international exchange.

First of all, Alfredo, give us a little background on the extent of those relations that have been developing, particularly with community broadcasters in the United States.

[Perera] Like you were saying, these relations dated back to around 1983 when our Institute of Radio and Television invited a group of community broadcasters, mainly journalists from the United States to come over and get in touch with our reality concerning radio and, specifically, community radio.

In 1984, another group, a wider group came and also the results were very good ones. Since then, we've been having more or less stable relations with community radio stations in the United States.

Now, besides this, we have been able to expand these ties through our participation in, first of all, the Second World Assembly of Community Radio Broadcasters which was held in Vancouver, Canada in 1986 where we met other broadcasters, not only from the United States, but from different parts of the world. Then recently, the ties were strengthened between our stations and community radio stations throughout the world, specifically, the ones from the United States, in the Third World Assembly of Community Radio Broadcasters that was held in Managua, Nicaragua in August of 1988.

[Jackson] I understand one of the outcomes of that important meeting was the founding of a world association of community radio broadcasters. Tell us more about that.

[Perera] Yes, the main purpose of that meeting was.... [changes thought] We had been discussing before in the other meetings the necessity of having an organization that would defend our rights throughout the world, not only in our own countries, but throughout the world, concerning the community radio as such; it's need to exist, it's need to be respected, it's need to develop. So this was one of the main objectives of the Managua meeting and all the different delegations that participated. There were many countries there from all over the world. We even had people representing South Africa: the community radio of South Africa. The people of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], for example, were there. They have their own station.

We decided that the time had come to finally create this organization and through many meetings and discussions that we had, the different bylaws were discussed and it was approved at the end to have established the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, which is a nongovernmental organization, like I said, with the main interest of fighting for their rights and developing community radios throughout the world.

[Jackson] Now, let me ask you, in many countries, where there exist powerful radio networks, community radio has to struggle to be able to be on the air, to be able to represent the interests of a particular community they might be located in; and for them, it's a struggle for the money, for the airwaves, that kind of thing.

Here in Cuba, community radio is supported by the government. While it may represent a particular community where the station is located, it's not that it has to struggle to survive or to be on the air. So how do you find a unifying point between Cuban community radio and community radios, say, in a Chicano community in Los Angeles that is fighting to be on the air?

[Perera] Well, like you were saying, the situations are completely different. We don't.... [changes thought] Community radio doesn't need to struggle to survive because it is supported by the government. Now, where is the unifying point?

We believe it's in the way it represents its community. When we get information or get ties or find out what the programming is, for example, and we see how they are linked to the community, this is alternative radio. This is the same thing we have in Cuba.

In Cuba, our local stations—we call them local stations—they are linked to the community. They express their interests. They give them information on what's going on, not only in their community, but throughout Cuba and even internationally. They express their cultural values and they also play a very important role concerning the needs of the community in many specific ways.

We've had the case, for example, if we need a special, specific donation for a patient in a hospital, a local hospital, and they don't have it, they would go to the radio station. This would go on the air and then people would just start stopping into the hospital to donate their blood—the type of specific blood that they need.

For example, the community radio station that we have in Cienfuegos.... [changes thought] Cienfuegos is a city that's right by the sea. One of the main things that Cienfuegos has is also, besides its big cement factory, the fishing village that they have there. They have a station there that works on the needs of those fishermen and it keeps them informed, while they're out there fishing, of the situations that are going on in their city, in their town. It goes on from general things that are happening there to specific things. Recently, I was hearing that there's this guy, a fisherman, out there. He had left his wife in a hospital giving birth to a child so when she gave birth, well, he was informed that it was a baby boy, that both of them were fine, and things like that. This relates directly to them. These are people who are always linked to the station and they always tune into the station because they see it as their own station.

And like this, in the Sierra Maestra, for example—this is out in the mountains—in the case of the Sierra Maestra, the station that is out there in the mountains will inform the people there. For example, when it rains a lot and the river gets very high, they would inform the people on the other side. They would say: Be careful in crossing the river. It's been going up in water and so on; it's dangerous to cross, and things like that. People are always linked to this station in many ways. This goes on throughout the country. The different characteristics of them depends on the type of community where they're in.

[Jackson] What lies ahead then for community radio relations with radio stations from other countries?

[Perera] Well, the main thing is creating conditions to have a fourth world assembly which is going to be held in Dublin, Ireland. One of the main things that we would like to organize here in Cuba before that conference is to have some type of workshop in Cuba concerning the information process: how to cover news, how community radio covers news, to have an exchange in these aspects, how other stations throughout the world cover news, what are the news departments about, what type of news is covered, how does it work, how they do it, how we do it.

This is one of the things I have in mind to see if we could organize it before the conference in Dublin, our fourth world conference. We are very optimistic about community radio and because to us, community radio is the alternative of information, of what's really going on throughout the world.

[Jackson] Well, it sounds like a very exciting project and we want to thank you for taking the time out to talk with us about it and we will certainly follow its progress and we wish you the best of luck. Thanks so much for talking with us.

[Perera] You're welcome.

Barbados

Queen Elizabeth Arrives for 4-Day Visit

FL0803213189 Bridgetown CANA in English 2101 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 8, CANA—Britain's Queen Elizabeth II arrived in Barbados Wednesday on a 4-day visit.

The queen flew in on a British Airways Concorde, accompanied by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

The queen last visited Barbados in October, 1985.

Further on Queen's Visit

.L0903021589 Bridgetown CANA in English 0021 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 8, CANA—Britain's Queen Elizabeth II flew into Barbados Wednesday to a 21-gun salute and the waves of hundreds who turned up at the Adams International Airport to welcome her back.

The queen, who was last here in October 1985, was greeted by cheers when she emerged from the sleek British Airways Concorde, wearing a bright turquoise hat she clung to on the wind-swept tarmac.

The monarch and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, are here on a 4-day official visit, one highlight of which is a brief address to the parliament, celebrating its 350th anniversary.

Some eyebrows were raised when her plane overshot its mark and stopped a few yards off the ramp where the queen should have descended to the waiting red-carpet and the host of dignitaries, headed by Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford.

The queen, wearing a muted print dress of green, lilac and turquoise, black shoes and white gloves, was greeted by the governor general, Hugh Springer and Lady Springer, and Prime Minister Sandiford and his wife, with introductions to other dignitaries including the Chief Justice Sir Denys and Lady Williams and the Deputy Prime Minister Phillip Greaves.

There was a bouquet for the queen and a buttonhole for Prince Phillip.

Making the presentation to the queen was six-year-old Natalie Scott of Christ Church Girls School, while Sopia Catwell, 13, of Alexandra School, made one to Prince Philip.

Queen Elizabeth II later received a royal salute, and the national anthem was played simultaneously with a 21 gun salute. After, an inspection of a guard of honour a number of prominent politicians and dignitaries were presented to her. Among them were opposition leader Richard Haynes and his wife Carole, head of the opposition Barbados Labour Party, Henry Forde and his wife, Sharon, Trade Minister Evelyn Greaves, Health Minister Branford Taitt, Foreign Minister, Sir James Tudor, Speaker of the House of Assembly Lawson Weekes, and the Venezuelan ambassador who is dean of the diplomatic corps, Oreste di Giacomo.

The queen then took one of her famous "walkabouts" amongst the crowds, throwing unprepared cameramen into turmoil as they ran, tripods and all, to get shots as she stopped to greet some locals. The small crowd on hand, also unprepared for the long walk, trampled over flowers and plants to get a chance to see the popular royal head. For the dignitaries, it was something of a fashion parade.

Mrs Richie Haynes, in pink, and Mrs Henry Forde, in pastel shades, were eye-catching. But they and other ladies had to cling to their hats, threatened by the wind.

The royal party will have a private dinner at Government House tonight and proceed to parliament Thursday morning. The queen will also lunch with parliamentarians, dine at St Anns Fort, headquarters of the defence force, and attend a reception at Government House Thursday.

Haiti

U.S. Coast Guard Returns Citizens From Miami

FL0803211989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpts] A U.S. Coast Guard vessel yesterday evening returned some 202 Haitians to Haiti, dropping them at the wharf in Port-au-Prince. Among these people were 11 soldiers and 2 Dominicans who had left Haiti in the past few days in search of a better life abroad—more specifically, in Miami. The unloading of these people last night was done in the presence of the police and of a few officials from the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

The 11 soldiers who were returned and who had participated in the hijacking of the boat in the Miragoane/Petit Goave area, were taken handcuffed to the National Penitentiary. These soldiers, who were as aggressive as a Moray eel, made a number of nasty statements, such as that they might as well shoot them right then and there because they were tired of the tough life and all the calamities in Haiti. Journalists present hastened to record these statements, and for their part, the policemen wasted no time in confiscating the cassettes from the representatives—although later, at the request of the representative of the U.S. Embassy on the scene, their hierarchical superiors made them return these materials. This is what a colleague, whose cassette was confiscated, told us.

[Begin unidentified soldier recording] [Passage omitted] They say we will die first, but I know there will be others to die too. I know who I am up against. [passage indistinct] Just one thing: There is a guy up above, and He sees everything! [passage omitted] [end recording]

The journalists who were there—and we too had a reporter there—obtained these statements with great difficulty, but they were able to get them. You heard them. The soldiers say they are tired—that they can just go ahead and shoot them right then and there, because they are tired of the horrid poverty and all the calamaties they are going through in Haiti.

That is why the policemen hastened to begin collecting the cassettes—but the USIS representative who was on the scene asked higher-ranking police officials to make the policemen return the cassettes, and they had to give them back. [passage omitted]

These people were picked up from four boats. [passage omitted]

Danielle Mitterrand's 11-13 March Visit Noted

FL0303185389 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The French Embassy's press and information service informs that Mrs Danielle Mitterrand, president of the France-Liberte Association of the Danielle Mitterand Foundation, will be in Haiti from 11-13 March 1989. She will be paying a private visit to Haiti within the framework of the activities of the association of which she is the president. This association works closely with nongovernmental, humanitarian, organizations. Through its activities, it contributes to the improvement of the situation of the underprivileged of different countries and the promotion of human rights.

This visit is one step on a work trip that will take Mrs Mitterrand to South and Central America—Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, and Nicaragua—and to the Caribbean—Cuba and Haiti.

In Haiti, Mrs Mitterrand will have occasion to make contact with several heads of French and Haitian humanitarian and human rights organizations. She will visit some of their projects in Port-au-Prince and in the provinces. She will welcome to the French residency representatives of the French community. Her visit will also provide an opportunity for her to meet with political figures and to talk to Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government.

Jolibois Said Missing; Press Release Cited
FL0803191289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] The wife of Dr Sylvan Jolibois is complaining that her husband left home last Friday and has yet to return. According to Mrs Jolibois, Dr Jolibois said he would be back at around 1800 on Friday, or else over the weekend.

Mrs Jolibois says that he has as yet not returned. Meanwhile, she was informed that people had gone to the clinic asking for her husband. She says she is very concerned about this situation.

However, in a press release dated 6 March and signed by Dr Sylvan Jolibois, the leader of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector announces a 16-point program that constitutes a minimum for the provisional government to be able to hold elections with all the proper guarantees.

Some of the points in the press release that has appeared bearing Dr Jolibois' signature are: that there be a major reform of the Army, the police, and the Justice Department; that diplomatic relations be established with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, and Algeria; that Article 289 of the Constitution of 1987 on the formation of the CEP [Provisional/Permanent Election Council] be fully applied; that the poisonous garbage at the Sedren wharf in Gonaives be sent back abroad immediately and that those responsible for the garbage be brought to trial; that laws respecting the rights of women be written; that the literacy program be thoroughly revised and well supervised; that all Haiti's ports—Cap-Haitien, Port-de-Paix, Gonaives, Saint-Marc, Port-au-Prince, Petit Goave, Miragoane, Jeremie, Les Cayes, and Jacmel—be open, and that all kinds of merchandise be allowed to enter these ports as in Port-au-Prince; and that all the Haitian canecutters in the Dominican Republic be repatriated to Haiti and that the government support them until it gives them land to farm.

These, then, are different points in the minimal program that the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector presents, under the name of Dr Sylvan Jolibois, as conditions for holding proper elections.

Meanwhile, Dr Jolibois' wife is very concerned because she has not seen Dr Jolibois since last Friday.

Journalist's Attacker Says Fighting Communism
FL0803175589 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French 1200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Our correspondent in Cap-Haitien, Hugh Florvil, has also suffered from the insecurity. [passage omitted]

Today he tells us what initiatives he has undertaken, regarding the police. Meanwhile, his aggressor, Bob Lecorps, has reacted. He has sent a cassette to the Cap-Haitien press. He declares, and we quote: This aggression was a personal initiative against communism. I will continue as long as there are communist militants in the country.

Let's listen to our correspondent Hugh Florvil.

[Florvil, in Creole] [Words indistinct] it was around 1030 or 1100. I myself had gone to the police, as the captain who is chief of police suggested, to file a formal complaint with the police, to inform the police of what happened. [passage omitted]

The guy who attacked me, Bob Lecorps, felt it necessary to send a response to all the radio stations that had talked about the incident. He sent a cassette to the radio stations. I heard it before it was aired. He said that it was his own initiative, which he had taken in order to combat (?communists) in Cap-Haitien. He said he didn't want Cap-Haitien to become a wee Cuba, and things like that. [passage omitted]

Yes, there is much solidarity, and spontaneous solidarity at that! I must also say that this solidarity comes not only from my colleagues who work at the radio stations. I teach in several schools in Cap-Haitien, and although that sector has not as yet said anything about this, many of them came to see me personally, to express their sympathy, etc. etc., as did many people in the streets. [passage omitted]

I must say that I now feel more reassured regarding this matter—especially since it has gone beyond me personally. [passage omitted] I mean, it is as if by assaulting me, he has assaulted, maybe, an entire sector. I don't know, but I think this began around Sunday, you know? Especially since in the statement he made, he spoke of an (?alleged base on Rue 12) and things like that—as if there were men already marked, whom they wanted to get. In fact, he said that when I fled, I had gone to the base.

I myself think that by the very fact that he spoke of an alleged base on Rue 12, this might lead to still more reactions—that those guys might take a position, and a number of other things like that. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Police Allegedly Suggest Residents Execute Thief
FL0803171089 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French 1200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpts] There have been diverse cases of insecurity noted last night and yesterday. In Fontamara, the vigilance brigades have reacted. These brigades from Fontamara 43 caught a burglar named Wilfrid Joseph in the act at 0200 this morning. The alleged burglar was caught trying to break into a car belonging to Evans Paul, also known as Konpe Plim [a journalist], who is a member of the Confederation for Democratic Unity [KID].

Port-au-Prince police officials stated that the residents of Fontamara 43 should have executed the thief, to prevent him once and for all from doing any damage, reports Konpe Plim in an interview with Haiti-Inter.

[Begin recording] [Paul, in Creole] [Passage omitted] We took him to the police. They weren't very happy about it, because they said that when such people were brought in, it was more aggravation for them—that the population should have done away with him.

[Unidentified reporter] The police said this to you?

[Paul] Yes. That's what they said. They feel it is a waste of time. They feel it is causing them more aggravation, when a thief is taken to them every time one is caught. After a few months they release him and he starts stealing all over again. So taking him to them constitutes giving them more of a problem. [end recording] [passage omitted]

You heard the astonishing statement made by the victim, to whom policemen allegedly declared that the population should have executed the thief to prevent him, permanently, from causing any trouble.

We remind listeners that the police authorities have always severely sanctioned citizens who take justice into their own hands. A few weeks ago, the residents of (Latan), along National Highway No 1, who caught burglars responsible for repeated burglaries, were apprehended by the police.

Drivers Union Issues Warning to Police

FL0803181089 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French 1200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The drivers have reacted to the current insecurity. The drivers are going to announce measures to be taken to counter the acts of banditry that are rampant in public transportation circles these days. They will use their own means to defend themselves if the police do not show their will to put a stop to this kind of thing, which imperils the lives of drivers and passengers.

This is according to the resolution decided on by the members of the Central Organization of Haitian Transport Workers Unions [Centrale Syndicale des Transporteurs Haitiens], CSTH, during a general assembly held at the headquarters of the Federation of Workers Trade Unions on the afternoon of Sunday 5 March. (Quesner Pierre), the union's deputy secretary general, sets forth the CSTH position.

[Begin (Pierre) recording, in Creole] The general assembly pushed the committee to issue a press release on this matter in which they ask the chief of the Port-au-Prince police to shoulder his responsibilities. They specified that if the chief of police does not shoulder his responsibilities—or does not make a position statement on the insecurity—the drivers will have to take measures themselves. [passage omitted] We also had to tell the passengers too that they *must act in solidarity with the drivers.* [passage omitted]

We are waiting to see what the chief of police is going to do. [passage omitted] We have a recommendation to make to the police. First of all, if they really want to establish security, we think that they must somehow disarm the armed civilians wandering around. And in order to do this, after searching private residences, they should search people in the streets—because we who are saying this have seen this with our own eyes. We know! And I think that if the chief of police or the Haitian Army does not take into consideration the suggestions made by drivers and passengers, they will be making a big mistake. [passage omitted]

The young men (?and women carrying weapons) in the streets must also be searched—while they are walking in the streets. That is where many weapons will be collected. [passage omitted]

We said that if we are not given security, we will seek to meet with the head of the Haitian Army. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Groups Issue Communiques on Security Situation

Democratic Bloc Communique

FL0803164589 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] In a communique issued yesterday, the Democratic Bloc also protests the terrorist operations rampant all over Haiti. According to the communique signed by the bloc's coordinator, Mr [Wilfrid] McNally, these acts of terrorism appear to be part of a vast overall plan for a genocide prepared by those nostalgic for power and their accomplices against the forces on the scene struggling for change in Haiti. These people are doing this in order to be able to impose on the Haitian people their arbitrary decisions and a repression that is contrary to the legitimate aspirations of the Haitian people, says the Democratic Bloc communique.

The communique recalls to mind the searches that took place over the weekend at the homes of several leaders of political parties and Democratic Bloc members, such as Eng Rockefeller Guerre and Dr Turneb Delpe. The communique also mentions the dispersing by the police, Saturday, of a demonstration organized by the COCRH [expansion not provided]; the death threats made against RDC [Christian Democratic Assembly] leader Eddy Volel; and the arrest of Ernst Charles and (Vaudreuil Abelard) on the morning of the dispersed demonstration.

The communique recalls all these things to mind and *protests vehemently against the abuse of power which* they feel is an attempt to take away the freedom to demonstrate and freedom of expression that the Haitian people seized on 7 February 1986.

That, then, is how the Democratic Bloc's press release ends. They are seriously protesting the acts of terrorism occurring all over Haiti.

Konakom Issues Communique

FL0803190289 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French 1200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements [Konakom] protests the current climate of insecurity and acts of brigandage, which give rise to the following questions:

First, are those responsible for public order overwhelmed by the banditry? If yes, they must make a public statement to that effect to the nation, in which case they will be able to openly ask for the society's support against the evildoers.

Second, if they are not overwhelmed by the evildoers, should we assume that they are the evildoer's accomplices? Otherwise, Konakom says, how can one explain the fact that armed individuals driving a jeep with no license plate were able to kidnap a citizen from his home in Gonaives? This fact is of such a nature as to give rise to all kinds of suspicions, when one knows that no vehicle can traverse without stopping on the portion of the road next to the (Bigo) military post at the southern entrance to Gonaives.

Third, is the country on the verge of reliving the scenes of horror that preceded 29 November 1987? Indeed, how can one fail to recall that demonic thugs making up death squads had profited back then from the complicity of certain members of the Armed Forces, who were diverted from their essential task of providing protection by Namphy and his team—his team back then, it goes without saying—prior to 29 November 1987.

Konakom continues: In any case, one notes that these terrorist actions have, paradoxically, recommenced in Haiti ever since the fascist memorandum of super-Minister Virginie Saint-Pierre.

Whatever the reason or reasons for this situation, Konakom thinks that the Haitian people cannot put an end to it without support from the Army, which is supposed to provide protection of all citizens (?above and beyond) all political cleavage.

Therefore, saluting the different democratic organizations that have taken the initiative of setting up vigilance brigades to protect their neighborhoods, Konakom asks all political sectors to take public and open initiatives vis-a-vis the military hierarchy to have the police, in *conformity with the letter of the Constitution of 29* March 1987—we quote: Protect the lives and property of citizens. End quote.

Insecurity is an evil that threatens us all, concludes Konakom, which adds: Let us all, both military and civilians, close ranks in order to counter it.

The Konakom communique ends with the slogan: "With heads together and well in place, we will change things."

The communique on insecurity is signed by Victor Benoit and Jean-Claude Bajeux. [passage omitted]

123 Arrested Over Weekend in Port-au-Prince

FL0803165389 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French 1200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpts] A source close to the Port-au-Prince police told us yesterday that 123 people were arrested in Port-au-Prince and its environs over this past weekend. These arrests were made during searches conducted in several different neighborhoods in the capital by the police with the help of several patrols from different Army units.

According to the Haitian police, the people arrested are currently in custody at the National Penitentiary, which has no more room to lodge any new arrestees. Thieves, alleged murderers, people caught carrying illegal weapons, and the commando that tried to hijack a foreign vessel and take it to Miami are among the 123 people in police custody. However, no detailed list of the people under arrest has been provided by the police.

According to other reports, military uniforms were allegedly found in a private home on Morne Calvaire.

AFP says that most of the arrests are reportedly linked to clandestine travel. [passage omitted] Rumors circulated in certain parts of Haiti to the effect that the U.S. authorities had changed their immigration policy which led to a resurgence of clandestine travel by boat people [preceding two words in English], and there were attempted hijackings of boats to Florida reported. [passage omitted]

The forces of order systematically conducted searches of vehicle and residences Saturday in Port-au-Prince. This was done within the framework of the wave of public insecurity that has left a number of people dead in the capital recently in connection with which the Haitian press had denounced the lack [of response], particularly at night, by the security forces.

That is how AFP reports these arrests, which it links more particularly to clandestine travel [to the United States]—whereas, according to the information we have been able to collect, it is more a matter of a struggle against insecurity.

Port Employees, Other Workers on Strike

FL0803190689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] This is the 2d day of striking by the port employees in Cap-Haitien. They are demanding wage increases. The employees of the National Presses are also on strike today, demanding three pay periods of back pay [6 weeks] owed them.

Also, after 3 days of striking, the employees of Camep [the metropolitan area water works] have somewhat discontentedly resumed work. Their demands were not satisfied.

Jamaica

Statement Rejects Criticism of Former Government

FL0803144189 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Jamaican opposition leader Edward Seaga issued a statement yesterday rejecting criticism of his former government.

Prime Minister Michael Manley blamed Mr Seaga's government in a speech Sunday night for using inaccurate facts in dealing with the International Monetary Fund. Mr Manley also charged the Seaga government with mismanaged funds. Mr Seaga says his successor is trying to shift the blame because he cannot cope with the present economic situation.

Government Urged To Abolish Death Penalty

FL0803141689 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Amnesty International has urged the Jamaican Government to abolish its death penalty. The human rights organization also wants Jamaica to allow its more than 200 death row prisoners to live saying many of them have not had a fair trial.

Amnesty says Jamaica has one of the highest numbers of people on death row of any country in the world. It also says nearly half of the prisoners have been awaiting death for over 5 years, with some on death row more than 12 years. The death penalty is mandatory for murder convictions in Jamaica.

El Salvador

Rebels Call for Talks After 'Illegal' Elections

PA0903013289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0030 GMT 8 Mar 89

["Official communique" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command in El Salvador on 8 March]

[Text] 1. On 23 January, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] made a flexible proposal to convert the elections into an instrument for peace. That FMLN proposal received broad majority support locally and internationally.

2. The government took over a month to reply. On 26 February, Duarte, with the cooperation and support of the U.S. State Department, prepared and presented a counterproposal in which he made no reference to most of the points contained in the FMLN proposal.

The FMLN took only 1 day to respond to Duarte, proposing a meeting in San Salvador on 4-5 March with the government, the Legislative Assembly, and the political parties.

3. The government and the Legislative Assembly did not respond to this FMLN initiative.

4. In view of the foregoing, the FMLN made a new proposal of a meeting to be held on 7-8 March. This new initiative was also left unanswered by the government.

5. The Armed Forces High Command attempted to disguise its negative attitude by offering a false unilateral cease-fire. By their declarations and military operations, the military unit commanders revealed the true deceptive intent of this cease-fire.

6. For its part, the Legislative Assembly has appointed its delegates, having waited over 15 days since the meeting in Mexico between the FMLN and the political parties—now that the useful political time has expired.

Under these conditions—after so many delays, obstructions, and deceptions by the Salvadoran Government, Armed Forces, and Legislative Assembly to foil the desire for peace of the Salvadoran people; with only 1 week remaining before the election campaign ends; and since the 19 March date for the elections has been confirmed—the FMLN reports to the Salvadoran people the following:

1. The FMLN maintains its peace offer, and will continue striving for it. However, it feels that holding a meeting with the government only a few days before elections aimed at continuing and expanding the war would serve to fool our people and the international public. Only following those fraudulent elections to further the war can we again attempt to hold peace negotiations among the FMLN, the government, the Legislative Assembly, and the political parties.

2. The FMLN reiterates its decision to continue talks with political parties following the elections to seek new paths toward peace.

3. The FMLN is calling on all the mass movement's rank-and-file members to reject en masse the fraudulent elections to further the war, which will be held on 19 March.

4. The FMLN reiterates to the Salvadoran people that their orders are to void their votes or to abstain from participating in 19 March's warmongering, illegal, and fraudulent elections.

5. The FMLN reiterates its recognition of the content of the Democratic Convergence [CD] platform, and feels the CD participation in the elections—under disadvantageous conditions and opposing the fraud—aims to help pave the path toward a just and negotiated peace.

Achieving the people's goals is closer than ever. The March elections are not the solution. All must join the mass struggle and demand a negotiated solution to the conflict, social justice, peace, and national sovereignty.
[Signed] FMLN General Command
El Salvador, 8 March 1989

CD's Ungo Says Postponement Effort 'Failed'

PA0803143389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0612 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Mar (AFP)—Guillermo Ungo, leader of the left-wing Democratic Convergence coalition, said today that the effort to postpone the 19 March Salvadoran presidential elections—which would have allowed the guerrillas to lay down their arms—has failed.

In statements to AFP, Ungo blamed the ruling Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) for failing to hold a dialogue with the guerrillas to discuss a peace plan proposed by the insurgents. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] announced on 23 January that it was prepared to join the country's political process if the elections were postponed until 15 September and if negotiations began with the government.

Referring to this proposal, Ungo said "we no longer think it has any chance." He deplored the fact that an opportunity has been lost to begin a peace process in El Salvador, which has suffered from an 8-year conflict that has claimed over 65,000 lives.

Ungo said the PDC and ARENA refuse to meet their responsibilities and, instead of giving a straight answer to the rebels' proposal, "are resorting to deception, manipulation, and delaying tactics." He added that neither the government nor ARENA have made any commitments to begin a dialogue with the FMLN and have not proposed any real options to the FMLN proposal.

Ungo criticized the Legislative Assembly, which is controlled by ARENA, for failing to appoint last week a legislative commission to meet, along with delegates from the Executive Branch, with the guerrilla leaders to discuss postponing the elections. In view of this situation, the FMLN called on the population last week not to vote in the elections on 19 March, arguing that the elections will "intensify the war."

Ungo said, however, that it is premature "to talk about what position the FMLN will take after the rejection of its proposal."

Moreover, he said that regardless of the results of the 19 March elections, "the party that wins them will have to hold a dialogue with the guerrillas, because the basis has been laid for a political solution to the war."

Ungo added that he met last week in Washington with U.S. senators and congressmen and with State Department officials in charge of Latin American policy. Ungo explained the situation in El Salvador "and the importance of the United States becoming a factor that will contribute to peace, not to a continuation of the war."

Ungo said the U.S. Government "can get involved in El Salvador's domestic affairs to help with positive actions, the way the Latin American and European countries have tried to do."

Assembly Appoints Commission To Meet FMLN

PA0803201789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Report by Rene Milton Grimaldi]

[Text] The Legislative Assembly has appointed a commission to participate in a dialogue with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. We repeat: This afternoon, the Legislative Assembly appointed a commission to participate in a dialogue with the FMLN.

The members of this commission are: Dr Jose Francisco Guerrero, representing the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA; Dr Guillermo Antonio Guevara Lacayo, representing the Authentic Christian Movement; (Rafael Machuca), representing the National Conciliation Party; and Alfonso Aristides Alvarenga, representing the Christian Democratic Party.

This is the commission appointed by the Legislative Assembly to participate in a dialogue with the FMLN. We have also learned at this time that the heads of the executive and legislative branches will meet this afternoon with their commission representatives to decide on a time and place to hold the dialogue with the FMLN. The dialogue with the FMLN is expected to take place within the next few days. This has been a last-minute report.

Party Officials Discuss Proposals, Elections

PA0803150889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0430 GMT 2 Mar 89

["Decision'89" program with moderator Mauricio Funes; Reni Roldan, Democratic Convergence (CD) vice presidential candidate; Ruben Zamora, CD general coordinator; Roberto Viera, culture and communications minister; and Eduardo Colindres, private secretary of President Jose Napoleon Duarte; in the Canal Doce Television studio—live or recorded]

[Text] [Funes] Welcome to another "Decision'89" program. This week President Duarte issued a proposal to the FMLN, the political parties, and the Legislative Assembly. He requested the postponement of the presidential elections until 30 April, and he proposed a dialogue with the FMLN in Guatemala City. This would take place after a unilateral declaration of a cease-fire by both the FMLN and the Armed Forces. This proposal, just like the proposal made public by the FMLN on 24 January [to postpone the elections], has tended to be the focus of national attention, and that is why we think tonight's debate must focus on President Duarte's proposal, the FMLN's reply, and the positions adopted by the political parties.

Our guests tonight are: Reni Roldan, Democratic Convergence [CD] vice presidential candidate, CD General Coordinator Ruben Zamora, Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leader Roberto Viera, and Eduardo Colindres, who was a delegate to the talks with the FMLN in Oaxtepec, Mexico. The objective of this debate is to make an in-depth analysis of what can be called President Duarte's counterproposal or proposal, the significance of this momentous action, and the FMLN and politial parties' replies.

Gentlemen of the CD: In your view, wouldn't the FMLN General Command's decision to reject the cease-fire unilaterally ordered by the Armed Forces almost create a point of friction, making more difficult a rapprochement and agreement between the government and the FMLN, and couldn't it be interpreted as meaning that Duarte's proposal can go no further?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, I think that the reason behind the decision not to accept the proposal for a unilateral cease-fire goes deeper. For the cease-fire to be truly effective and for it to fulfill our people's desire for peace, the cease-fire must not be unilateral given the circumstances, limitations, and so forth that arise from such a situation. A unilateral cease-fire could be broken in the same unilateral way it was established. We do not have further information on this, but we think that the FMLN's fundamental desire truly is to reach a bilateral cease-fire that will be respected in the months to come.

[Funes] Would this attitude not [words indistinct] be telling the political parties and forces that expressed cautious opinions about the FMLN's intentions that they were right? President Duarte said that the least the FMLN could do was to show evidence of a willingness to cooperate by declaring a cease-fire.

[Unidentified speaker] I think that in such matters one has to take serious actions. That is the important thing in such cases. I believe that the problem with Napoleon Duarte's proposal is that he wants to issue orders to everyone. He made a big blunder by making a proposal that involved the legislative branch without consulting the president of the Legislative Assembly. [Words indistinct] the political parties [words indistinct] please sit down both of you. That is what should be done.

The same thing applies to the way the cease-fire was handled. All on his own, Napoleon Duarte decided that the FMLN must order a cease-fire beginning at such and such a time on a certain day. I think this is an absurd aspiration on the part of the president, who cannot give orders to the FMLN. The only thing that Duarte can achieve with such behavior is to elicit a rejection from the FMLN, and then nothing is accomplished. Dialogue and negotiation must be agreed upon by both sides. If Duarte wants the executive and legislative branches to attend such a dialogue, then he should have coordinated this beforehand with the president of the Legislative Assembly, because Duarte cannot give orders to the legislative branch.

Regarding the cease-fire, he should have made a proposal that said: The moment we sit down to talk, let us each declare a unilateral cease-fire. I do not believe that there would have been any problem with that. Now he wants to begin a cease-fire when the Executive Branch has not even reached agreement with the legislative branch. No date has been established for initiating the talks and already he wants a cease-fire. I think that the government's position is quite illogical.

[Funes] What is the PDC's (?position) on this?

[Unidentified speaker] I think there is a complete lack of understanding and willingness to achieve peace. What is President Duarte showing by declaring a unilateral cease-fire? He is showing that he is really willing to contribute to peace. He is also showing that the Armed Forces are a serious and responsible institution that obeys the country's laws. It is therefore surprising that Dr Zamora says that taking such a step toward peace does not make any sense. Such an action is a clear and concrete demonstration that the government wants to find a peaceful solution to the Salvadoran conflict. Therefore, Zamora's position is totally inexplicable.

President Duarte was not in any way giving orders to the legislative branch. Instead, he was only making a specific proposal, saying: Look, in view of the FMLN proposal on the elections, a proposal that the FMLN called a proposal to turn the elections into a contribution toward peace... [changes thought] What did the government, what did President Duarte say? Let us make a proposal for peace through democracy and freedom. Therefore, the fundamental objective is to find options for peace and to tell all government branches and the entire country that we must begin peace now. If we want to speak about a cease-fire and if we want to stop the violence, how would we achieve these things? By not committing violence that would disrupt peace. This [Duarte's proposal] is showing that the government, Armed Forces, and all the democratic sectors want peace. To have peace, one has to begin by practicing peace.

[Funes] (?Some) have viewed President Duarte's proposal as a hasty decision that was not subject to consultation with the legislative branch or with the political parties.

[Unidentified speaker] I would say this is not so. If you look at the statement issued by the political parties in Oaxtepec, it says that they agreed to immediately and urgently promote a meeting between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN. In other words, President Duarte is responding urgently and immediately to the request by the political parties and is therefore making a proposal. Therefore, I think the president acted on the basis of the urgency stressed by the political parties in their meeting with the FMLN in Oaxtepec. I also want to refer to the fact that Dr Zamora interpreted the president's proposal as an order, taking the role of defending the legislative branch.

Dr Zamora is defending the majority in the legislative branch, saying that President Duarte is giving it an order. That interpretation is definitely incorrect. I would like to inform Dr Zamora that today there was a meeting of the members of the Legislative Assembly Board of Directors with President Duarte and members of the Executive Branch. They precisely proposed the establishment of a joint government commission made up of the legislative and executive branches to undertake the peace talks with the FMLN. That shows that talks are being conducted between the executive and legislative branches to find a solution. Therefore, President Duarte acted very positively in taking this initiative through issuing this proposal.

[Funes] [Words indistinct] the meeting held by the political parties yesterday and today's session gave the impression that no consensus would be reached.

[Unidentified speaker] I think this is the result of discussing the issues generated by President Duarte's proposal. We have seen the domestic reactions of the people and organizations. Internationally, we have seen the EEC and various governments, including the U.S. Government, express their opinions. This proposal has generated political debate everywhere. I think there has been input from ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] in the Legislative Assembly and that input may help us make progress in the process of dialogue and discussion on the peace proposal.

[Funes] In its response yesterday, I got the impression the FMLN would not agree to hold the talks in Guatemala City. This would be a step backward in regard to previous talks. What does the FMLN have to lose if the talks are held in Guatemala instead of San Salvador?

[Unidentified speaker] I cannot speak for the FMLN. I do not know what that organization's position is. Perhaps we should broach this problem from a more global viewpoint to lend credibility to our talks. Today I became aware, through various statements I heard, that people are confused. I believe we should eliminate this confusion [words indistinct]. I believe President Duarte's proposal has forced him to play a role he has heretofore tried to avoid: the role of head of state. He has been adrift regarding the problems stated in the FMLN peace proposal. He made a proposal Sunday night, which I consider a very promising action by a head of state.

While we judge the goal, however, we must judge the means. Both means and ends should be taken into account to judge the results. It seems to me that Duarte's means were not good ones because he took the people by surprise and [words indistinct] this document is addressed.

Such formal issues should not conceal a fundamental fact: The proposal keeps open the path to peace through dialogue. This does not mean, however, that President Duarte's document substitutes or contradicts the FMLN's initial document. Duarte is saying that the government wants to establish a difference between [words indistinct]. This is the play on words that confuses the people. Let us be clear and accurate. We are debating the issue of peace and war; we are saying that every instrument used is political, that parties, the state, and the insurgency should support peace. We are saying that the elections can be an instrument of peace; President Duarte's own proposal postpones the elections until 20 April, which is an issue we will discuss later. I believe we should make the process and the plan more all-encompassing and clear. The people should understand that there is rapprochement between both sides because they seek peace through dialogue, which is promising, (?useful), and deserves everyone's full support. This is [words indistinct] and we have to do it.

[Funes] Right. That could be the essence of the plan or proposal. However, there are some points that could delay the talks. Moreover, some political leaders already warned that 19 April—sorry, 19 March—will come without an agreement between the political parties. In other words, is that a point that could become a source of conflict: If talks are held in Guatemala or in San Salvador, or if the cease-fire is or is not a prerequisite for the talks?

[Unidentified speaker] That is precisely the problem. It took Napoleon Duarte a while to respond, more than a month after the FMLN made its proposal. However, he responded, which is the important thing. The problem is time; we have little time left. The Legislative Asssembly was not consulted before the proposal was made, and this is an issue involving the two branches of government. Our desire is not to defend the Legislative Assembly. It is simply a desire to accomplish things as soon as possible. What happened was that Duarte unexpectedly proposed the idea on Sunday, without consulting or telling anyone. Negative reactions then came in on Monday. On Tuesday, political parties met and from that point on—and my PDC friends cannot argue about this because we attended the meeting together—we saw that the ARENA people wanted to take advantage of the fact that Duarte did not consult with the Assembly and they appeared to be offended. Why? To continue extending this process. We all know ARENA does not want to postpone the elections. ARENA now had an excuse. Duarte's proposal was made on Sunday, and it was not until today, Wednesday, that the two branches of government met to make a decision. The logical thing would have been for the two branches to meet beforehand, or to at least notify the Assembly to avoid this waste of time. This is our concern. If Napoleon Duarte responded, even if we disagree with his response, that does not matter. The important point is that Duarte said he is willing to hold a dialogue, which is great. We must sit down at the negotiating table because time is running out. However, we must do this as soon as possible to avoid further obstacles.

Those who want to achieve peace can prove that at the talks. The PDC is saying Napoleon Duarte has a desire to attain peace because he is asking for a cease-fire now. I tell them: No, you have no desire for peace, because the FMLN proposal was made on 23 January and Duarte's first response was to say the FMLN proposal was not a peace proposal, it was a war proposal. A month passed and Duarte did not answer; he answered some 40 days later. Forty days have been lost. Had Duarte responded by 25 or 28 January, 5 or 6 days after the FMLN proposal was made, we would have had time to hold a dialogue and make decisions. Perhaps by now we could have had some clear solutions in mind.

[Funes] Should this delay be taken as a lack of willingness?

[Unidentified speaker] No. This is what I mean: The FMLN launched a proposal on 22 January containing specific issues that involved not only the Executive Branch, but also the Legislative Assembly and the political parties. The president then stated, very responsibly, that the proposal was not only his concern but also the political parties' concern, and asked the political parties to take a stand. In turn, the political parties began to discuss the proposal, saying that they did not agree, that they had to reach a consensus, and so forth. This discussion took a great deal of time.

The parties then sent the FMLN a note, to which the FMLN responded with an explanation. Finally, the parties and the FMLN agreed to meet in Mexico, where the political parties recommended that the Executive Branch deal with this proposal urgently and immediately. The Executive Branch acted very responsibly by saying that it would respond very quickly with a serious peace alternative to truly solve the country's problems.

What has this situation triggered? This happened on Sunday. On Monday and Tuesday the political parties took part in the Legislative Assembly, and now, only 3 days later, the Legislative Assembly has said that it agrees with the president's response. How can it be that the Legislative Assembly took only 3 days to agree with the president's petition? What does this mean? It means that this is the most adequate way of accelerating things, not the other way. The other way, we would have taken a month to discuss this issue.

Therefore, since the president has shown that he is truly willing to achieve peace [words indistinct], I propose that we cease hostilities immediately and meet right away. There is a willingness for peace. The Salvadoran people do not want war anymore. We must end the war.

[Funes] What is behind these decisions? Many people have warned that there may be pressure from foreign sources behind the parties' changes in opinion and hasty responses. Could we say, for example, that the United States has been a determining factor in the proposal's success and in its immediate response?

[Unidentified speaker] I am positive that if the president had not presented a proposal by now, Dr Zamora would be saying at this very moment that Duarte had not made a proposal because the United States had not allowed him to do so. I am sure that is what he would say.

I think Dr Colindres has explained the mechanism very clearly here. However, Dr Zamora's statements present a contradiction. He wonders why the discussion took so long. The discussion took a long time because the proposal had not been specifically directed to the Executive Branch. It was not the president's direct responsibility. The proposal involved the responsibility of other branches of power and institutions. But when the parties asked the Executive Branch to intervene directly, the Executive Branch immediately presented its proposal. The Executive Branch was not responding either to U.S. or domestic pressure. It was responding to a very real need for peace.

This is the first time in a long time that the FMLN has made three basic offers in its proposal. It proposes to put a permanent end to the armed struggle, to incorporate the FMLN into the country's civil and political life, and to recognize the Armed Forces as the country's sole armed organization. We think it was based on this fact that the president considered it urgent to propose seeking a dialogue with FMLN leaders.

[Funes] The first part of our debate ended today. I would like a brief reply from the two political parties to the following question: Is the decision reached today to establish this commission considered a positive development that opens the way for an immediate reply and concerted efforts among political parties, state branches, and the FMLN?

[Roldan] I believe that any progress made in this peace process is positive, regardless of the source. This concerted effort between the executive and legislative branches is crucial. However, I believe that there are other aspects that must also be taken into consideration before we can reach solutions. I believe that among the main considerations should be the fact that we are confusing two things. We should clarify things for our people tonight. We are simultaneously discussing two things: the initial FMLN proposal to turn the elections into an instrument to achieve peace, and a dialogue proposal supposedly presented by the president.

How can we discuss the two proposals simultaneously? They are two separate proposals; neither has anything to do with the other. If we politicians (?discussing) this are asking such questions, imagine what the people might be asking. I believe that tonight we are obligated to clarify matters and to respond specifically to the people's questions. We must not be evasive at all, because any attempt on our part to cover up mistakes or to make ideological interpretations would give the people reasons to doubt us.

Doubt is the worst thing that could loom over this endeavor. The people must regard this as a path toward peace; they must regard it as urgent, as something that must be implemented now—not tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. The people must not regard this as a dialogue for the next Presidency, but as a solution for peace now.

[Unidentified speaker] Dr Remi Roldan has just clearly stated that the president's offer of this peace proposal is a positive move. Why? Because the Legislative Assembly agreed to establish this commission and to immediately begin the dialogue. Therefore, as he said, this is a positive move. In fact, not only the Legislative Assembly but all social forces, all Salvadorans, must join efforts to achieve peace in El Salvador so that we can all live in peace.

[Funes] At the meeting in Mexico, the FMLN asked for an extension to consolidate its electoral base and to dismantle its military structures. The FMLN said that it needed 5 or 6 months, perhaps a little less time. Why is the government only extending the deadline to 30 April?

[Unidentified speaker] The government set the deadline at 30 April simply because that date falls within the time frame established by the Constitution. According to Article 80, numerals II and III of the Constitution, when properly and logically interpreted, elections may be held up to 30 April. To hold elections after 30 April would be unconstitutional. We must respect the Constitution because it sets the guidelines that allow us to coexist in peace. We must not, therefore, disobey constitutional mandates.

[Funes] Is that deadline a realistic one for the FMLN's goals?

[Unidentified speaker] Look, if they want peace, I believe that it is realistic. They asked for 60 days to ideologically mobilize, because to date they have been involved in violence and must now attempt to change from a violent to a nonviolent system. If their resolve is genuine, however, they can begin working now because there is no need for confrontation. On the contrary, we must rise above armed confrontation and engage in ideological confrontation—as in the exchange we are having now among the CD and ourselves—and we must express the people's viewpoints, agreeing and disagreeing on certain positions, but in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

[Funes] Why does the CD find the extension inadequate? Why does it feel that 4 or 5 months would be more reasonable?

[Unidentified speaker] I believe the sides involved must agree on the extension. A 40-day postponement such as the one President Duarte suggested in his first proposal—he also presented two other alternatives—seems inadequate to me simply because the new election process will require modifying the Electoral Code and the Central Elections Council, allowing Salvadorans who live abroad to vote, and conducting a census of FMLN members and then providing identification cards for all of them. It would be impossible to accomplish this in 40 days.

If we are to do things properly, as Duarte himself says—and I quote his proposal—he said: To extend this period, considering that the achievement of peace is a top national priority, and because this constitutes an exceptional case, the Assembly would have to request a postponement of the elections, because if they are held on 30 April, that may violate some article of the Constitution. Since this is an exceptional case, however, that article of the Constitution could be overlooked.

Duarte argues that this is an exceptional case. The CD agrees with him, and we have clearly said so. We agree with him: Peace is of overwhelming importance. This exceptional case will exist until peace is achieved, and if to achieve peace we need not 40 but 60 or 80 days, then the extension should be for 80 days. [Words indistinct] if in fact the Executive Branch agrees that this is an exceptional case, it should not arbitrarily establish the 30 April deadline. The elections could very well be held on 1 June, 1 July, or on any date agreed upon, but within a deadline allowing us to do all the things we have to do, and to do things properly in El Salvador.

[Funes] Viera, does Duarte's proposal focus primarily on establishing a deadline that will not violate the Constitution, or has he considered the FMLN's proposal which, at first glance, may appear attractive because it touches on such issues as permanently ending the armed struggle and the FMLN's entrance into national political and civilian life?

[Viera] Both things. Duarte's proposal focuses on the Constitution as well as on ways to establish peace and to end hostilities. I believe Dr Zamora's interpretation is inaccurate. At least the legal aspects of his argument could be interpreted in different ways. We have been examining Article 80 of the Constitution, which states that in exceptional cases the date of the second round of elections can be changed.

If the exceptional case is applied to holding a second round of elections, it can also be applied to the first round. For example, the Constitution states that if there is an earthquake on the date of the second round of elections, the elections can be postponed. If, however, there is an earthquake on the date of the first round of elections, what happens? The same measure would apply: The first round of elections would have to be postponed. It is a matter of establishing what constitutes an exceptional case. My position is that we should make this judgment based on the exceptional conditions the country is facing. From a constitutional standpoint, a mechanism exists that could avert a constitutional violation.

[Funes] Do you agree with the CD that an exceptional case exists, meriting the postponement of the elections?

[Viera] Of course. Now we will discuss the deadline. Dr Zamora argues the deadline issue from the technical point of view: electoral identification cards, conducting a census, and so forth. First of all, the FMLN has not said that it will form a new political party; the FMLN says that it will support the CD. This is what the FMLN has clearly stated. It has already registered; it has a candidate—vice presidential candidate Reni Roldan—and the only mechanism that must be worked out is how FMLN members are to vote, which can easily be resolved if all parties and branches of state truly have the political resolve to allow the people to vote. Such a mechanism must be devised and established.

As proof I have a copy of the magazine ANALISIS from the past elections, which carries an interview with Colonel [Sigifredo] Ochoa Perez, in which he states that people will be allowed to vote without election identification cards. Ochoa called for a plebiscite and he cited an FMLN proposal. The best solution is to consult with all the people, not only those who have election identification cards, because only one-fifth of the people have cards. If there is sufficient political resolve, a mechanism can be found whereby the people can vote. We need not violate the Constitution by extending the deadline beyond 1 June. We can hold the elections on 30 April, despite these mechanical issues. The important issue is political resolve.

[Funes] That may be so as far as mobilizing the electoral base is concerned, but the FMLN has also offered to dismantle its military structures.

[Unidentified speaker] Besides the solutions Ruben [Zamora] has explained, there are formal issues. There is also the matter of political interpretations. There are currently two magical dates. There was one, now there are two: 19 March and 30 April. ARENA does not want to go beyond 19 March, and the PDC does not want to go beyond 30 April [as their preferred to hold the elections]. Why? ARENA's position is logical. I can objectively state that ARENA has maintained its position thoughout the process. From the beginning it said that it did not favor postponing the elections, and this position has remained consistent. ARENA bases its position on constitutional grounds. It believes it will win the elections on 19 March, so why should it risk certain victory?

The PDC is now proposing a new date, 30 April, which it says does not go against the Constitution based on an analogy in Article 80 comparing the first and second rounds of elections. A void in the Constitution as it was drafted in 1982-83 allows room for interpretation. The PDC's two different positions are as follows: The PDC does not want the elections to take place after 1 June, because it wants to maintain control over the government to further that party's propaganda objectives. It fears losing the state apparatus, because its entire political campaign is based on that.

I wonder what would become of the PDC without the state apparatus. It is now a secondary force, and, although I am not a fortune teller, I do not believe that it will remain as a second force. It would be less than that. They know it, and undoubtedly they want to have the instruments of power that will enable them to get ahead politically.

[Funes] Is that control not going to end on 1 June?

[Unidentified speaker] You are right, on 1 June. However, if [words indistinct] 30 April, and [words indistinct] to appoint a provisional president. This is what the PDC is trying to avoid.

[Funes] What is your opinion on that?

[Unidentified speaker] First I would like to discuss an aspect that I regard as very important and even dangerous. Zamora has just said that as long as peace is not achieved, as long as there is no peace, we are faced with an exceptional case and therefore there should be no elections. I believe that this position is completely, absolutely undemocratic. Why? Because if one were to use the excuse of an absence of peace in the country to postpone the elections, then the elections will never be held. One year from now, anyone will be able to say that social problems exist, that there is no peace, and that therefore there should be no elections. This is bad. It is a process... [changes thought] We see a purpose behind this, which is to prevent the elections, to prevent the people from voting.

Moreover, I disagree with what has been said about 1 June. I believe that 1 June will be a momentous day for our country because it marks a further consolidation of democracy. Why? Because it will be the first time in many years, in more than 50 years, that a legitimate government, elected by the people, will pass on the reins of government to another legitimate government, also installed through free elections. Therefore, it is very important for us Salvadorans to take this step, for this will prove that we are truly capable of building a democracy in El Salvador.

I would say that we do not fear what will happen after 1 June, because we are not going to be the second force; we are already the first force. Recent surveys have supported our assertion that the PDC has achieved and consolidated its position and is now stronger than ever. However, neither our party nor any small group or party can predict what will happen after 1 June, because the people come first, and the people are the ones who will decide whether they want us to remain after 1 June. That is the real sense of the referendum, of the plebiscite: to give the people the opportunity to say what they want.

[Funes] There is one point that you have not discussed. I will bring up the subject again: It concerns the need for time to organize an electoral platform and to provide the FMLN with sufficient time to decide whether or not it will support the CD. I also understand that this period is related to the process of establishing a definitive cease-fire. My question is: Will this 60-day or shorter period and the proposal made by some political parties to hold the elections on 19 March to ensure that the government remains in power—for, after all, the government is conducting these negotiations—provide sufficient time to guarantee a cease-fire and the incorporation of the FMLN into national political and civilian life?

[Unidentified speaker] That depends on the FMLN.

[Funes] Is it a problem of political resolve?

[Unidentified speaker] Basically, yes. In other words, if the FMLN really wants to build peace, I do not see any reason why we should continue killing each other and fighting for 1 or 2 more years or even for 6 more months. It would be possible, as President Duarte said in the first point of his proposal, for the government and the FMLN to declare a cease-fire beginning at 0000 on 28 February 1989... [changes thought]. In light of that proposal, and if the FMLN truly wants peace, there should not now be violence and hostilities in the country.

We are dealing with a problem of political resolve. The government says that it has the political resolve to end the conflict. It wants to end violence in the country. The FMLN should, therefore, demonstrate whether it really wants peace or whether it wants to present a proposal merely to create a positive image locally and internationally when in fact it does not want peace but only wants to lead the Salvadoran people into a national rebellion.

[Funes] I would like to...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] That is the core of the proposal presented by President Duarte regarding a unilateral cease-fire. It is not a proposal leading to a permanent end to the war. The proposal demonstrates a true political resolve to begin the talks. The president is proposing the declaration of a cease-fire to objectively show the Salvadoran people that the government has the political resolve to permanently end the armed struggle through dialogue.

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker] Exactly.

[Funes] What do you think of that idea?

[Unidentified speaker] I believe that if it is a question of declaring unilateral cease-fires to demonstrate political resolve, and if such actions demonstrate that the parties want peace, then the FMLN has shown its political resolve to the government many times. The FMLN has declared unilateral cease-fires on several occasions, for example when the OAS delegation arrived and when the Central American presidents came. The Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces have been the ones that have refused to declare a cease-fire. If your argument is valid, then it means that the one lacking political resolve is the Armed Forces. Let us not play with words.

It makes sense to declare unilateral cease-fires to begin the talks. That, I believe, is a valid action. Let us begin talks on such and such a day, and on that day we cease military actions while we discuss the terms for a definitive or permanent cease-fire. However, to try—as President Duarte's proposal suggests—to establish a 3-month unilateral cease-fire is too risky and dangerous, because such cease-fires are not regulated by any rules and depend merely on the willingness of the two parties. To request a 3-month cease-fire is unrealistic.

We could very well reach an agreement on that point. Let the two parties declare a unilateral cease-fire when the peace talks begin. During the talks we could then decide on the mechanisms through which to extend the cease-fire. It must be extended, because the two parties have expressed their desire to agree on a definitive cease-fire, which is something all Salvadorans want.

We could reach a solution to our problem in that way. It is, however, important to discuss the issue of the time frame [for the elections] again. The PDC says the period depends on the FMLN. Why don't they let the FMLN tell them: Look, that cannot be accomplished in 40 days, but it could be done in 60 or 80 days. Wouldn't it be worthwhile to postpone the elections for 80 days instead of 60 for the sake of peace in our country?

[Funes] Doctor, what factor determines whether the postponement of the elections should be for 40, 60, or 80 days?

[Unidentified speaker] I believe that the length of time is determined by practical considerations. I believe that we have to look into the voting situation, for example. To have people voting with special voter identification cards instead of with the usual identification cards when the ruling PDC and ARENA control many municipalities is unacceptable. At least the CD will not accept that, because we fear that they will start issuing identification cards to everybody, and we know how past election frauds have been carried out. We do not want to fall for that, which would only complicate matters.

Let us agree on a postponement period. It is necessary to agree on a reasonable postponement period of some 3 to 4 months in order to register people on the voters list and to issue identification cards. It is practically impossible to do that in less time. If we are going to change election procedures—I believe no one has disagreed with that—if we are going to agree on a new Electoral Code, the political parties would need at least 1 month to agree on the various articles and then the Legislative Assembly would need additional time to approve the amendments. If that is done, we would begin an election process with a new Electoral Code and with well-defined rules, which we do not have now.

ARENA refuses to change the rules of the game, because the elections are to be held very soon. Even the PDC and other parties protested. If ARENA's attitude was bad and uncalled for, why does the PDC now want to amend the Electoral Code within such a short period of time? Why do they fear postponing the elections for 80 or 90 days, and not 40 days? I do not see any major problem in doing so. The PDC is terrified about participating in an election process no longer controlled by the Executive Branch because it could no longer get away with the abuses it now commits through the use of government vehicles, funds, and public employees in its political campaign. That is the true reason why it does not want to postpone the elections for a longer period of time.

[Unidentified speaker] I believe that the unilateral cease-fires previously declared by the FMLN are merely propaganda ploys. Those were not actions demonstrating a desire for peace. Why? Because when they said: Well, we will declare a 24-hour cease-fire, what they meant was that they needed that time to prepare for another attack. The FMLN's strategy resembles the Vietnamese strategy.

It stages attacks and then offers to participate in negotiations. The FMLN uses car bombs in terrorist actions in San Salvador while at the same time it says that it is willing to negotiate with the government.

Look at what happened in Guastepeque. In an attitude that I would describe as apocalyptic, the FMLN told all political parties: We are willing to have a dialogue. We will lay down arms and all that, but if you reject our conditions, it will be disastrous for the country. Under those conditions, no one can really believe that the FMLN is willing to attain peace. Ruben Zamora asked us why the government is afraid of working toward peace in 80 days, and I asked him why they are afraid of working for peace right now. We can attain peace right now. We do not need to wait 80 days. There will be more bloodshed during those 80 days. We can attain peace right now. We can declare a cease-fire as soon as the peace talks begin. We can hold elections 80 days after the talks take place and, in the meantime, we would have enjoyed 80 days of peace, without shootings, allowing us to conduct all the necessary tasks.

[Unidentified speaker] Issuing identification cards is a real possibility from a technical standpoint. Right now approximately 1.9 to 2 million people have valid identification cards. With a true desire for peace, we can all work together to issue voter identification cards to approximately 400,000 people. In other words, we must only issue identification cards to another 10 percent of the Salvadoran population.

[Viera] I would like to add something else about the identification card issue. My attention is drawn to Dr Zamora's concern about only having 4 months to issue identification cards while, in the last few months, the CD has not been at all concerned about issuing identification cards. We, the PDC, are concerned about that. We talked to the people and asked them to go and obtain their identification cards. The CD, however, was not concerned with whether its followers had identification cards or not. The CD is registered as a party. The Social Democratic Party was founded in 1985 and registered in 1987, so it had plenty of time to issue identification cards to its followers. It seems to me that the CD's current concern about the identification cards is only an excuse to defend the argument presented by the FMLN.

As the CD and Dr Ungo said in the [word indistinct], if we want peace, let us begin peace today. Let us declare a cease-fire right now and let us go to the peace talks without bullets. Let us begin building peace right now.

[Funes] Without trying to offend anyone, of course, could one not think or assume—from what you are saying, Minister Viera—that people who arrived late at the soccer game now want to exert pressure to change the rules of the game at the last minute?

[Roldan] Without a doubt, the people who do not have voter identification cards and who were not registered either by the CD or the FMLN are the people who did not believe in the election process. You must remember, Mr Viera, that elections have not always been the solution to our problems. You have [words indistinct] the elections. We in the CD have never used the word fraud. It is you [the PDC] and ARENA who, through your mudslinging, have caused the prestige and integrity of the election process to be called into question, thereby causing distrust in the entire process. It has obviously been this loss of prestige—caused by you and not by us—which has led the FMLN to ask for certain basic conditions to restore the prestige and credibility of the election process and to make the elections an expression of the people's will and of peace. We were not the ones who gave the electoral process a bad name; it was you [the PDC], you and ARENA. No sir—we are not criminals, thieves.

Now you recriminate us for not registering to vote. We have conducted a campaign and we have convinced people to go and obtain their voter identification cards, despite being told by the left that ARENA and you have loaded the dice against us, and that this is an ARENA-PDC game. You are the ones responsible for giving it a bad name. Remember March 1988, when you had to go all the way to the Supreme Court, when a member of the Central Electoral Council had to be exonerated? Are we to blame? No. You are the ones to blame for getting a bad name.

Would a few more months restore the credibility you are looking for? Yes, because it [a postponement of the elections] would provide a vehement and unequivocal sign to all sectors within the political system—political parties and the government—that now there is a genuine desire to turn the elections into a peace process, a process that is going to reflect reality and the will of the people. Look, I have voted at all the elections held in this country—all of them—including Duarte's 1984 election. [Words indistinct] an awkward act of faith, because never, never, never, never have the elections been of any use! Just look at the 1982 election results, which were rigged by the Central Electoral Council, and what ARENA had to say about Duarte's victory. No, you are the ones. Now we are [words indistinct]. Let us clarify that.

[Viera] We thank Dr Reni Roldan for adding prestige to the elections...

[Roldan, interrupting] To the elections, not to you.

[Viera] That is precisely what I said. Tell us, Dr Colindres: If we turn to the period prior to 1984, we see that nobody talked about a dialogue at that time. However, after this administration took office, a process was begun and a dialogue as such was initiated. There was criticism from various sectors claiming that all efforts had failed, but the process continued to move forward. Political openings were created. You yourselves have said so: Political openings have spread throughout the country.

We began to address the Central American problem, and then Esquipulas II came into existence, and the Central American presidents stated their position, calling on armed insurgent groups to return to society and to abide by the Constitution.

Then Dr Zamora, the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front], and other political groups joined the election campaign. Furthermore, in the last election Zamora said: We believe that there are no real political conditions for the CD to conduct an election campaign. Now the CD is conducting its election campaign, because we created those political conditions to which he referred.

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct] you.

[Viera] All right, you created them, but those conditions exist now. What matters—as Dr Zamora and Dr (Ijacuria) said—is not the intentions of the proposals of the FMLN or President Duarte, but the reality. What matters is that we now have democratic conditions for you to participate in the elections. Democracy exists. If we now have possibilities to attain peace, let us then take that path and achieve peace.

[Funes] Let us go back to what we were discussing before. The various political parties proposed a legal procedure to postpone the elections. According to that proposal, the parties must commit themselves to withdrawing their candidates. Is that a simple statement of intent? Why has no political party taken the initiative of withdrawing any of its candidates thus far, although they suggested that action?

[Unidentified speaker] The main point is the following: The withdrawal of candidates has several purposes. First, it is a political action through which the parties... [break in reception]

Sensuntepeque Council Resigns Due to Threats

PA0803125889 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1225 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The Municipal Council of Sensuntepeque, Cabanas Department resigned in the last few hours because of death threats from the FMLN. Members of the Municipal Council told this station that the FMLN had sent them notes three times in a row, demanding that they resign within 72 hours of yesterday afternoon.

The members of the Sensuntepeque Municipal Council asked the rebels not to carry out any action against their lives, because they already resigned.

Nicaragua

Opposition Meets To Discuss Single Candidate

PA0803182589 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1241 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Nicaragua's 14 opposition parties have begun discussing the possibility of participating in the upcoming elections with a single candidate.

After a trip by opposition party representatives to Costa Rica and Venezuela, the 14 opposition parties met last night at the Social Democratic Party headquarters. At the meeting the parties discussed a united participation in the elections, but it is not known whether they reached any conclusions. The parties also discussed the need to support a single opposition candidate and, although several names were mentioned, none were disclosed to the media.

General elections in Nicaragua have been scheduled for 25 February 1990, as promised by President Daniel Ortega at the recent presidential summit in El Salvador. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias urged the opposition to participate in the elections, even though many of the guarantees requested by the opposition do not exist.

Meanwhile, the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has repeatedly said it has not yet chosen a candidate for the elections. Although nothing is official, Tomas Borge has been mentioned as a possible candidate.

Our station spoke with Dr Alberto Saborio, leader of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] There will be a demonstration in Leon on Sunday. What are your expectations for this demonstration?

[Saborio] The [words indistinct] our conservative leaders have been organizing a political rally. It will be one of the first activities in this new stage. From the very beginning, we will put the FSLN's alleged democratization to the test. I think this will be the opposition's first call to action. I also think the masses who support the opposition will attend this rally.

[Reporter] Thank you for your statements, Dr Saborio. [end recording]

RN Communique Demands Honest Elections

PA0603142489 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Feb 89 p 9

[Text] The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) fighters and civilians who make up the Nationalist Current for Unity and Reconciliation (CNUR) issued a communique on the agreements recently signed by the Central American presidents in El Salvador. The communique to the Nicaraguan people and international community expresses the need for an honest election process that guarantees respect for the people's will.

The CNUR is demanding changes in the structure of the government—namely in the state-party-Army fusion. The communique adds: The decision to move the date of the elections forward does not guarantee that they will meet all the conditions that are inherent in every democracy.

The document also states: Nicaragua needs a lasting solution, and this will only be possible if a democratic process is established that takes into consideration the will of all the Nicaraguan political sectors—the civic and armed opposition—and not only the government's will.

The RN communique also says: Nicaragua must have a national Army at the service of democracy and not at the service of an obsolete ideology. If the presidents reach just and trustworthy agreements, the RN fighters are willing to return to Nicaragua and lead the civic struggle of the peasants, who for many years placed their hopes for freedom in our cause.

The CNUR also issued an appeal urging the Nicaraguan people to unite and urging Nicaraguans living in exile to jointly demand the conditions that will guarantee free elections in Nicaragua. These demands are generally the same as the internal civic opposition's demands expressed in the nine-point document issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board in August 1984, and the constitutional reforms demanded by the 14 opposition parties that make up the Nicaraguan political opposition. Those who signed the document repeated the slogan: "Nicaragua will be a Republic again," PJCH [Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, former LA PRENSA director who was assassinated in 1978]. The document is signed by Tirzo Moreno A., Walter Calderon, Diogenes Hernandez, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, [Jr], Antonio Chavarria, Victor Sanchez, Guillermo Arguello, Martha Sacasa, Dr Orlando Montealegre, and Gustavo Quezada.

Cardinal Reiterates Call for General Amnesty

PA0603143889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has reiterated his request for a general amnesty. During his Sunday homily at the Las Sierritas church, Obando requested an amnesty not only for contras and former Somozist guards, but also for common criminals, including thieves, murderers, and rapists.

Obando expressed concern over the fate awaiting the contras and former Somozist guards who are to be released. He asked his congregation to follow the teachings in the parable of the prodigal son and receive the contras and former Somozist guards with open arms, adding that it would be a shame if they failed to find kindness in the world upon their release.

Referring to those abducted by the contras, Obando said their release would do much good to help reconcile the Nicaraguan family.

Honduran Army 'Harassed' Border Posts 7 Mar

PA0903015389 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0119 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reports that at 2112 on 7 March, Honduran Army troops harassed with rifle fire and 81-mm mortars the border areas of Las Piedras and Murupuchi, located northeast and north of Teotecacinte, Nueva Segovia Department.

It should be noted that Honduran Army troops have harassed various border areas in the 1st Military Region four times this month.

PSC Members Charged With Links to Contras

PA0603130089 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Members of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party [PSC] are again involved in counterrevolutionary activities. This time the PSC members were trying to form an internal front in Boaco Department.

According to state security reports, the PSC activists went from sympathizing with the counterrevolutionary groups to collaborating with them. The Boaco Department Attorney General's Office charged the PSC activists with forming an internal front with direct CIA support. The authorities said the detainees had documents linking them with contra leaders. The detainees' confessions included information about the front's structure, functions, and plans for political actions.

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] I spent 10 months in jail in 1987 for collaborating with the counterrevolutionary groups. I am secretary general of the PSC and president of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board. [end recording]

PSC leaders said the PSC members are innocent, although the detainees' statements confirmed their crimes.

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct] because according to Law No 37, [words indistinct], which is included in the amendment to the criminal law of procedure, all types of evidence, including documents, testimony, and eyewitness statements, can be [word indistinct]. [end recording]

Only the Attorney General's Office has presented evidence during this initial phase of the investigation. It presented documents and physical evidence. The detainees' lawyers show little interest in the case, because the PSC has not paid them for their services. Sources close to the detainees' relatives said their lawyers will be paid in dollars.

Article Accuses Sandinists of 'Genocide'

PA0903024989 Managua PASO A PASO in Spanish 25 Feb-4 Mar 89 p 2

[Article by Moises Canales: "The Sandinist National Liberation Front's Genocide"]

[Text] In its own way, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is doing away with an entire people. It is genocide to have young people die on battlefields without knowing why.

It is genocide to leave mothers childless and to leave children without a father.

The destruction in this country has been so great that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to quickly reconstruct it. And we are only talking about bringing the country back to life.

We have not talked about the fact that it is genocide to deny people their right to have something to eat every day. The daily hardships our citizens suffer to put some bread on their tables is nothing short of genocide. One simply cannot describe the anguish reflected in the eyes and faces of men and women who, often unsuccessfully, seek food for their children day and night.

A government commits genocide when it does not deal with unemployment and instead devotes itself to doing away with the jobs and salaries of the poorest, neediest, and most deprived. It is the poor who have suffered the most due to the FSLN's layoffs, which are aimed at correcting the economy. In its attempt to correct the economy, the FSLN has sacrificed the wombs and breasts of the mothers who now have nothing to give their newborn and unborn children. In the future, will our children have any strength to come into the world and grow?

Is this not genocide? And we have not even talked about those in prison, those who are tortured, those who are condemned to living in prison camps, and the disappeared—those who no one can find and who will not be found, not even by the most illustrious human rights organizations, because the disappeared cannot and will not be shown to anyone.

With this somber and terrifying landscape that one must condemn, the oft-scorned Esquipulas agreements rise as a symbol of hope, along with the strength of a people who have stoically withstood the Sandinists' cruelty.

As a Nicaraguan committed to my people and as a Christian immersed in my duty toward society, I am obliged to make these charges and not keep them quiet. Yet I also have the right and duty of being optimistic and hopeful.

Now, together with many others (and with a degree of reservation also shared by many), I welcome the peace declaration signed by the Central American presidents and I hope that perhaps, on this occasion, it will be honored by the Nicaraguan president. Incredulous as I am about the FSLN's promises, I must try to believe that the closed door has opened a crack.

I must confess that even though I am optimistic, I still am frustratingly disappointed.

For now, seeing is believing. Let us hope we will see what all Nicaraguans hope to see: peace, justice, and the beauty of freedom and democracy—and an end, once and for all, to the FSLN's genocide.

Let us hope there will be no more exile and exodus, which are just other types of murder.

In conclusion, everything will depend on the FSLN, on conscientious Nicaraguans, on the domestic opposition, and on those of us who want reconciliation and a dialogue between our people and God.

Tirado Says Foreign Debt Over $26 Billion

PA0603160389 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado Lopez said it is necessary to take financial measures to face the crisis and alleviate the burden of the nation's foreign debt, which surpasses $26 billion. In a meeting with UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] basic grain producers, Tirado said the war and Hurricane Joan have inflicted great damage on Nicaragua, whose situation is further aggravated by a $26-billion foreign debt.

Tirado said a financial policy that is both strict and somewhat flexible must be adopted to help Nicaragua's producers.

Soviet Envoy Comments on Summit Agreements

PA0603150789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Feb 89 p 8

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Nicaragua Valeriy Nikolayenko said last night that the agreements signed by the five Central American heads of state in El Salvador prove that the conflict cannot be solved militarily and that a peaceful negotiated solution is the only way to bring peace to the region.

The Soviet diplomat said the agreement to repatriate and relocate the contras currently in Honduras is the result of the "Nicaraguan Government's constructive and flexible position, which is an example of the new Sandinist way of thinking." He added that the Nicaraguan Government's attitude is helping to normalize the situation both in Nicaragua and throughout Central America.

Regarding the El Salvador declaration, which calls for an end to military aid to rebel forces, Ambassador Nikolayenko said the USSR "has not given, nor is it giving, aid to rebel forces."

Asked whether the USSR will continue to supply Nicaragua with weapons, the Soviet diplomat said "we believe in being cautious and moderate when sending weapons to other countries." Nikolayenko added that the proposal his government made to the United States regarding measures to reduce the supply of aid to other governments in the area still stands.

Nikolayenko reiterated that his government and people will continue to provide economic aid to Nicaragua through trade and donations. This aid totaled $300 million last year.

Soviet Ambassador Nikolayenko told newsmen that the only influence exerted by the Soviet Union in the search for peace and the settlement of regional disputes in Central America has been its reiterated call for national reconciliation.

Speaking to local and foreign correspondents, Nikolayenko noted that foreign interference and the supply of weapons to the rebels have hindered a peaceful solution in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, Nikolayenko said there is a growing rapprochement between the USSR and the countries and peoples that want friendly relations with the Soviet Union. Nikolayenko stressed, however, that "there are people interested in sowing the seed of discord."

Panama

Solis Palma: Accord With U.S. 'Difficult'

PA0903044589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0325 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 Mar (AFP)—Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma warned today in Panama City that a political understanding between Panama and the Bush administration "will be very difficult to achieve if the U.S. desire to subjugate us continues."

"I am always doubtful about a quick solution to the problem with the United States," Solis Palma told reporters, after stating there will be no solution to the confrontation between the two countries while a "comprehensive solution" remains unlikely.

Relations between the two countries have been at their lowest level during the last 2 years ago because the United States insists that General Manuel Antonio Noriega should resign as commander of the Panama Defense Forces.

The Panamanian president said his government was prepared to "hold a discussion with friendly countries and the Bush administration," but on the condition of not having to give up "political principles."

"It is not easy to predict what will happen," Solis said. He rejected the request by the OAS Inter-American Humans Rights Commission [CIDH] to allow the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to investigate the murder of opposition physician and guerrilla Hugo Spadafora Franco, which occurred in Panama 3 years ago.

The CIDH, which visited Panama last week, proposed that an independent commission investigate Spadafora's murder. His beheaded body was found in 1985 on the Panama-Costa Rica border.

"We told the CIDH we could not accept that because that would be like giving up one of the country's sovereign rights. We are entitled to have our authorities investigate crimes committed in our country," the president noted.

He added that the CIDH request "would be like asking an international organization to investigate President Kennedy's murder."

Duque on Promissory Notes, U.S. Relations

PA0903021789 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2326 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Interview with National Liberation Coalition presidential candidate Carlos Duque by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Duque] Above all, we have a government program. We are already drawing up that program. I will give you a copy as soon as it is completed. We have an overall development plan and a plan to strengthen and develop agricultural production. We will develop Panama as a country of services and as a country of an open economy. We are already studying several projects and will implement them as soon as we attain power.

[Reporter] There presently is a certain dissatisfaction among government employees regarding the promissory notes the government has given them. What can you tell us about that problem?

[Duque] I can tell you it is a justified dissatisfaction. I definitely disagree with those promissory notes; however, the government unfortunately was forced to take that measure. With that measure, the government tried to alleviate workers' problems. I truly disagree with those promissory notes.

What is happening now is that the public employees are becoming victims of inhuman and unscrupulous speculators. Those people are charging public employees for cashing their promissory notes. We definitely disagree with the promissory notes system.

[Reporter] There were recent talks about the possibility of smoothing things over with the United States. There were talks about the guidelines your government will follow to attain that goal. Could you tell us more about that?

[Duque] I have always said that we, my government, will be open to holding direct talks with the U.S. Government, and we will be willing to resume the friendly ties we have always maintained with the U.S. Government. We, as the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA], have already begun taking certain steps to resume those friendly relations. We are sure that during our government the relations between the United States and Panama will definitely follow their normal course.

[Reporter] Candidate Duque, at this stage how would you assess your political campaign?

[Duque] People have responded in an extraordinary manner. They are true activists. We are already in the second phase of that campaign. Last week we completed our first phase, which was our initial tour. Yesterday we began our second phase in Montijo, Veraguas Province. We were warmly welcomed there. There was great enthusiasm there. As you know, people from Veraguas Province—where Omar Torrijos was born—truly believe in and trust that COLINA will know how to assume the role history has assigned it. We will follow Torrijist ideas and methods.

The Torrijist method consists of frequent consultations with the people, which is what we are doing. We are in constant communication with the people. We are talking to the people and will continue to do so. We will govern with the people. We plan to strengthen the system of corregimiento representatives, which is the genuine geographical and political representation of the Panamanian people.

More Criticism of PCC Administrator Reported

Editorial on 'Disinformation'

PA0503221189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Mar 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Disinformation Within the Canal Framework"]

[Text] The U.S. Government's disinformation campaign unleashed against Panama and its legitimate government headed by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, yesterday acquired a new dimension with the unrealistic statements made by Dennis McAuliffe, the U.S. canal administrator.

In his somber essay, Mr McAuliffe attempted to blame the Panamanian Government for the actions his own government has perpetrated to the detriment of canal employees, who have been thrown into the sad and regrettable situation of being forced to be deliquent in their payments to Panama's treasury. Added to this are the tens of millions of dollars the United States has refused to pay the Panamanian Government, depositing them instead in an account in the name of a "president" created by the insolent mind of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

McAuliffe now has fruitlessly attempted to make it appear to the national and international press and canal customers that the Panamanian Government is threatening the waterway's safe and efficient operation and that in so doing is violating the Torrijos-Carter 1977 pact.

McAuliffe intentionally evaded the well-known fact that the United States has been flagrantly violating the treaties, but the sectors he attempted to confuse are very much aware of that. McAuliffe's statements conceal a sad fact: His government is determined to create conditions that would make it easy for the United States to ignore the treaties and maintain control of the canal way beyond the year 2000. The best proof of this are bills that have been presented at the U.S. Congress which attempt to disregard the achievements Panama has attained through the treaties.

The anguish, uneasiness, and insecurity the devoted canal employees have endured must be blamed solely on the United States. The canal employees are beginning to understand this, and they made it known yesterday by courageously picketing in front of McAuliffe's own headquarters.

Finance Minister Cited

PA0403200689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 4 Mar 89 p 5

["Scoops" column]

[Text] Panamanian Finance and Treasury Minister Orville Goodin has categorically denied Panama Canal Administrator Dennis McAuliffe's disrespectful statement. Minister Goodin said that the tax clearance certificate is a required document for all Panamanian citizens and not only for canal employees, as McAuliffe claimed. Goodin also said that withholding the taxes deducted from the wages of the Panamanian employees is a vulgar robbery of the Panamanian people's money.

U.S. Policy for Obtaining Licenses Criticized

PA0603130489 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 5 Mar 89 pp 1, 8A

[Text] While the U.S. Government denies Panamanians who work for the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] the right to obtain license plates for their cars by not turning over [to the Panamanian Government] the taxes deducted from their salaries, Washington permits U.S. military and civilian personnel stationed in our country to pay 25 cents to obtain national and municipal tax clearance certificates, which allow them to obtain license plates for their vehicles.

As we know, the U.S. Government has not turned over to the Panamanian Government all the taxes deducted from the salaries of Panama Canal employees due to the economic sanctions imposed on our country. This makes it impossible for these employees to obtain a national tax clearance certificate, a document that is required to conduct various transactions, including obtaining vehicle license plates.

In this regard, we have learned that PCC Administrator Dennis P. McAuliffe paid his taxes and was therefore able to obain license plates for his two private cars, which shows that he was allowed to violate the U.S. Government's order, while Panamanian workers at the

PCC must abide by it and suffer the consequences. McAuliffe's cars are a white Toyota Corona with license plate No 8-76038 and a light blue Honda with license plate No 1075992.

Although it is true that U.S. civilian and military personnel who live in our country do not have to pay taxes to the Panamanian Government and therefore owe nothing to the Panamanian Treasury, the fact that they paid the 25 cent tax violates the U.S. Government's order banning the payment of taxes to Panama. This leads us to the conclusion that in the case of Panamanians who work for the PCC, no attempt has been made to solve a problem the United States itself created.

Columnist Assesses McAuliffe's Actions

PA0803022389 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 6 Mar 89 p 4

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Aggression From the Southern Command"]

[Text] I have learned that in a note dated 22 February addressed to Panamanian members of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Board of Directors, PCC Administrator General Dennis McAuliffe strongly condemned U.S. Army plans to take over land used for canal operations near Farfan, on the west bank of the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal.

This area, as McAuliffe notes, has been used since 1920 as a retention basin to store material dredged from the bottom of the canal and is duly identified in the Panama Canal Treaty as a canal operating area.

According to General McAuliffe, losing access to this area would have a grave impact on canal operations and would create serious environmental problems for surrounding communities.

The ironic thing about this illegal and arrogant action that the U.S. Army intends to carry out is that, in addition to violating the treaty, it constitutes illegal appropriation of land for the construction of a highway that Panama objects to. Panama claims that the construction of this highway will create problems for future users of the canal and that it disregards paragraph 3 of the Agreed Minute to the Agreement in Implementation of Article IV of the Panama Canal Treaty. Paragraph 3 stipulates that "both sides agree to contruct a highway to connect Panama City and Veracruz in an area agreed upon by the two parties." This highway is the so-called coastal highway.

We support General McAuliffe's courage in defending canal interests as we did in the past when he was the first person to report, at a meeting with top PCC officials, that William Gianelli [chairman of the PCC Board of Directors] was overstepping his authority. McAuliffe also alerted Panamanians to Gianelli's plans to turn the Panamanian PCC administrator into a mere figurehead. General McAuliffe recently disclosed Gianelli's plot to have the U.S. citizen who will be appointed PCC deputy administrator on 1 January 1990 function as the acting administrator while the U.S. Government delays, for an indefinite period, the appointment of a Panamanian administrator, as set forth by the treaty.

I know that Gianelli's blood boiled when McAuliffe made these statements, but the truth is that the latter does not have anything to lose during his remaining 10 months as PCC administrator.

Weekly Review of Political Situation

PA0803210989

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of material from Panamanian and regional media related to the current political situation in Panama. This review covers the period from 28 February through 6 March and includes some items that have been processed in fuller form.

Relations With the United States

Tax Issue

There was substantial critical media reaction to a statement by Panama Canal Commission (PCC) Administrator Dennis McAuliffe, reported in the 1 March LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, claiming that the inability of PCC employees to obtain tax clearance certificates (Paz y Salvos) would have an "unfavorable impact on the PCC's ability to operate the canal in a safe and efficient manner." Panama City Domestic Service on 1 March broadcast a Panamanian Foreign Ministry communique that noted McAuliffe "intentionally" tried to "confuse PCC employees and Panama Canal users." The PCC administrator was further criticized by the Domestic Service in a 3 March commentary that labeled him a "proconsul." Panama City CRITICA's 2 March editorial referred to a "disinformation campaign" and its "Scoops" columnist on 4 March referred to the nonpayment of withheld taxes as a "vulgar robbery of the Panamanian people." Finally, Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL on 5 March reported that "McAuliffe paid his taxes" and obtained his license plates, while "in the case of the Panamanians who work for the PCC, no attempt has been made to solve a problem the United States itself created."

The media also carried several reports highlighting PCC employee discontent over this issue. Panama City MATUTINO reported on 2 March that PCC workers picketed outside the PCC Administration Building "to protest the absurd and arbitrary U.S. measure." Panama City MEDIODIA on 6 March quoted PCC Deputy Administrator Fernando Manfredo as saying that "disciplinary measures, as established by PCC regulations" would be taken in the event workers refused to work in view of the "inconveniences." MEDIODIA's editor, Guillermo Rodolfo Valdes, on 6 March noted "the canal agency's unjust and offensive treatment" and wondered if "our authorities have tried to find some solution" to the problem.

Also related to the issue of withheld U.S. taxes, Euclides Diaz, secretary general of Panama's National Banana Council, was cited by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 5 March as noting that the U.S. sanctions against Panama, which he described as an "act of war," have resulted in United Brands owing the government $24 million in banana export taxes.

Treatment of U.S.-Panama Incidents

Two incidents involving U.S. activities in Panama received a great deal of media attention. First, Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reported on 1 March that an explosion killed a young man in the Nuevo Emperador firing range in an action "provoked by the professional negligence and irresponsibility of U.S. troops" and described the incident as "a new U.S. Armed Forces violation of the rights of civilian residents." Although Panama City Circuito RPC Radio broadcast a Southern Command communique stating that the Southern Command was investigating the explosion and noting that the youth who was killed and the two who were injured "were not authorized to be in the Nuevo Emperador firing range," CRITICA on 1 March attributed the youth's death to the "irresponsibility of the gringo Army." Panama City LA REPUBLICA on 2 March reported "the gringo soldiers wanted to kill them and threw the explosive device at them" while MEDIODIA reported on 3 March that the Panamanian Government will sue the Southern Command before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the International Court of Justice.

Second, there was much media reaction to the Panama Defense Forces' detention of U.S. Department of Defense school buses on 3 March for failure to be properly licensed. Most of the reaction, however, focused on the role played by the U.S. Army's provost marshal, Major Alan Mansfield. Mansfield's verbal argument with FDP Director of Land Traffic and Transportation Major Luis Cordoba, first broadcast by Panama City Televisora Nacional on 4 March, was again aired on 6 March "at the request of many listeners."

Televisora Nacional on 4 March carried the "text" of a "protest note" sent by the FDP's Combined Board Cochairman Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro to U.S. Armed Forces Combined Board Cochairman Lieutenant Colonel Robert S. Perry. All Panama City papers also carried the protest note. In addition, CRITICA, in commenting on the incident in its 4 March editorial, referred to "U.S. arrogance," while LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL on 5 March referred to the U.S. Army provost marshal as a "sad spectacle of a U.S. soldier." The provost marshal was also described as a "professional provocateur" by MATUTINO's 6 March editorial.

OAS Human Rights Delegation Visit

Although Panamanian media gave full coverage to the 27 February-3 March visit by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (CIDH), much of the media's focus during the visit was on bringing U.S. "human rights violations" to the commission's attention. Panama City Domestic Service reported on 1 March that Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon had reported the "U.S. violations of the Panamanian people's human rights" to the CIDH. ACAN reported on 28 February that Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma had said "his government has nothing to hide" from the commission. Meanwhile, CRITICA reported on 2 March that the political committee of the Renovacion Publishing Company, Inc. (ERSA), which publishes the proregime newspapers, issued a communique "rejecting the criminal U.S. actions against Panama" and demanded the CIDH "urge the U.S. Government to suspend the economic sanctions against Panama." CRITICA also carried on 3 March the "text" of a letter sent by the "Dignity Battalions' Patriotic Coordinating Command" to the CIDH on the "U.S. provocations."

However, Panama City Circuito RPC Television on 3 March reported that the CIDH recommended "an exhaustive investigation of the Hugo Spadafora case and the reopening of the closed media."

Following the commission's departure, the media's assessment of the visit was mixed. Although Gen Noriega was quoted by RPC TV and ACAN as saying that the commission's visit was "positive," CRITICA on 4 March criticized the commission for not investigating "U.S. aggression against Panama." This sentiment was echoed by LA REPUBLICA in the 5 March "Reporter's Notebook" column, which said the commission was "deaf and dumb" when it was asked about U.S. "aggression." In a 5 March editorial, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA noted that "since the beginning of the crisis in June 1987, Panamanians have witnessed a lack of respect for the rights of others by both sides," adding that "those who claim to be the champions of democracy in the world and an example of human rights—the U.S. rulers—are strangling us and want to deprive us of the most sacred and inalienable right of man, the right to life." For his part, Solis Palma was cited by Telemetro Television on 6 March as saying he is "evaluating the requests" of the CIDH but emphasized "we would not agree" to international investigation of the Spadafora case.

Domestic Political Activity

Election Activity

As the election campaign continues, Panamanian media have begun giving increased coverage to opposition candidates and viewpoints. Panama City Domestic Service on 6 March began broadcasting a live 1-hour "political program" each day in which the country's political parties are given 30 minutes' airtime each week until the 7 May election. Prior to the first program on 6 March, the Domestic Service announced that "you will now listen to a political program through which the Electoral Tribunal complies with Article 166 of the Electoral Code." The announcement also noted that "the opinions expressed here are the sole responsibility of the parties that express them." Also over the past week, RPC Radio carried several reports on the activities of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) and broadcast interviews with opposition leaders Guillermo "Willy" Cochez and Guillermo "Billy" Ford. Cochez, a prominent Christian Democratic Party (PDC) leader, now also hosts a 30-minute program called "The Voice of ADOC," broadcast on RPC Radio at 1330-1400 and 2330-2400 GMT Monday through Friday.

Panamanian media continued to cover the election campaigns of both ADOC and the proregime National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) tickets. LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 28 February and 2 March reported on ADOC's tours of Herrera Province and western Panama Province, respectively, while noting that the "opposition is intensifying its campaign." CRITICA, MATUTINO, and LA REPUBLICA gave extensive coverage to COLINA's tours through Chiriqui, Darien, Cocle, Herrera, and Colon Provinces.

The proregime newspaper CRITICA also gave ample coverage on 6 March to an incident at La Chorrera fairgrounds, where PDC Legislator Raul Ossa was reportedly involved in a "brawl." RPC Radio on 6 March broadcast live statements by PDC Legislator Guillermo Cochez explaining the Chorrera affair by saying "FDP soldiers" and "prisoners from Chorrera" had been brought in to "provoke" the incident.

Statements by ADOC candidates carried by the media during the past week focused on criticism of the Solis Palma government. RPC Radio on 2 March carried statements by Ford and Cochez criticizing Solis Palma's presence at the Carlos Andres Perez inauguration in Venezuela. They also denounced the "government's attempt to stop the (opposition) march" slated for 2 March by "halting public transportation." In a 6 March interview over RPC Radio, Ford blamed the government "for the financial problems of all the Panamanians" but denied he was "the candidate of the United States." MEDIODIA on 1 March had previously carried a report on Ford's denying "having received any support from the United States" for the campaign. ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara was interviewed by Telemetro Television on 6 March and was quoted as saying he will "work for the people" if elected.

A possible election development was reported by MEDIODIA on 6 March. The paper reported an "unidentified source" from the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA) as saying Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement people were meeting with PPA leader and presidential candidate Hildebrando Nicosia "to try to reunite the opposition groups."

Meanwhile, COLINA campaign rhetoric and regime media criticized the ADOC slate for being too closely tied to U.S. interests. In a visit to Cocle Province, COLINA presidential candidate Carlos Duque is quoted by MATUTINO on 2 March as saying that in Panama there is "no room for traitors." MATUTINO also carried a report on the COLINA candidates visiting Chiriqui Province, where they "buried the ADOC" slate. An "Alert to the Citizens" commentary broadcast on Televisora Nacional on 2 March also referred to possible repercussions of an opposition victory by emphasizing the "similarities" between Venezuelan President Perez' "pro-IMF policy" and the Panamanian PDC's plans.

Opposition March

Most Panamanian media gave some coverage to a 2 March opposition march through Panama City streets that, according to Buenos Aires REUTER, was "the greatest antigovernment demonstration since the August (1988) funeral of Arnulfo Arias." The fullest reports were provided by RPC TV and Radio. RPC TV described the march as an "expression of the Panamanian people who had been repressed" and noted that "thousands attended."

As for regime-controlled media, the FDP television station, Televisora Nacional, carried a brief report on the march without comment. The newspapers CRITICA, MATUTINO, and LA REPUBLICA made no mention of the march, but LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 3 March published a short report noting that "thousands" participated in the march "for human rights and free elections."

Domestic Economic Situation

Although a LA REPUBLICA editorial on 6 March noted that the Panamanian banking system is recovering "in spite of U.S. economic restrictions," CRITICA reported on 2 March that government revenue in 1988 was 44 percent less that what it was in 1987. MEDIODIA reported on 1 March that the construction industry has progressively deteriorated, adding that construction permits in January 1989 amounted to approximately 1 million balboas, which is down from 4 million balboas in January 1988.

The issue of the 13th-month bonus was also raised again in the media. Telemetro Television on 3 March quotes Deputy Labor Minister Victor Collado as saying the labor situation is "stable." However, CRITICA on 2 March reported that the government "contemplates payment of the 13th-month bonus...with state promissory notes." On 3 March, CRITICA, MATUTINO, and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA all reported the Finance Ministry's explanation of the promissory note system. However, also on 3 March, RPC TV reported that the

National Public Employees Federation has rejected this method of payment, and on 6 March, RPC TV carried a statement by a representative of the National Medical Negotiating Commission that also rejected this method of payment. According to recorded statements by Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the National Banking Association, broadcast over RPC TV on 6 March, "there is no suitable information yet on how these bonds will be handled."

Correction to Report on Opposition Media Access

PA0803193789

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Report on Opposition Access to Media," published in the 28 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 37:

Column one, last paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...City Circuito RPC Radio has been observed... (changing word "Television" to "Radio")

Argentina

Caputo Discusses Foreign Debt Problem

PY0803204289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The statements published by THE WASHINGTON POST yesterday and those made by U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Theodore Gildred, about the U.S. Treasury's possible change of attitude toward the Latin American foreign debt to grant a pardon, have caused reactions here.

This morning reporter Nestor Clausero discussed the subject with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who said there is no magical solution to the foreign debt problem, because nobody will give us anything for free, either for our future or for development.

Minister Caputo said the problem with the policies imposed by the creditor countries is that they demand us to make sacrifices that do not aid our development.

Caputo added that if a new solution turns up for the development or foreign debt problem, such as a pardon or a reduction in interest, it will necessarily require a matching effort from the debtor countries. This possibility has stemmed from the apparent new attitude of the White House and from the possibility that the debtor countries' foreign debt and development problems could be discussed in the United Nations in April next year [as heard].

The importance of this possibility lies in the fact that our foreign minister is president of the UN General Assembly. We talked with Caputo and asked him what efforts the UN General Assembly presidency has made to have this subject discussed in the United Nations in April next year.

[Begin Caputo recording] The UN General Assembly president and the Argentine mission have always worked hard on this subject. We are satisfied with the fact that the UN General Assembly acknowledges this issue because it has entrusted the UN Secretary General and me with the mission of seeking in the next few months points of agreement for a new approach to development and to the foreign debt problems.

I was given this mission, which I will begin to carry out as soon as possible with the aid of an international group we are forming. I think it is a new way to face the subject, basically aiming not at creating new technical recipes for the development and debt problems, but at finding a political solution to remove this obstacle in the negotiations.

Regarding the members of the group, I do not want to give their names until they accept. However, we are thinking of forming a team capable of talking with the main world leaders to remove the political obstacle that has blocked the way to new solutions to the development and foreign debt problems. [end recording]

These were statements by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo during an inteview this morning about the United Nations' new efforts regarding the Latin American and developing countries foreign debt problem.

* SIDE Chief on New Role of Intelligence

33480111a Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 19 Jan 89 pp 37-38

[Interview with Facundo Suarez, head of the Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE) by unnamed reporter in his home office; date not given; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Facundo Suarez is without doubt one of the most unusual officials of the Radical government. One need only look at his office at home. Two photographs dominate it: one with the pope, the other with Fidel Castro. On his untidy desk, amid secret reports from SIDE and other agencies, one could also come across the original of Gabriel Garcia Marquez' next novel, with a special dedication: "This must be the best legacy that I leave to my children," it says. A veteran political leader, the father of the mayor, a multifaceted businessman, a friend and, at one point, an adversary of Alfonsin, Suarez, the man with the peculiar personality, today occupies one of the most mysterious posts, to say the least, in the Radical government: chief of intelligence. He says that he is trying today to demystify SIDE. This exclusive interview leaves it up to the reader to judge whether he is achieving his goal.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] The head of electric power, an ambassador, not to mention other experiences from the more distant past, and finally intelligence chief. A little strange, isn't it?

[Suarez] It was an emergency. The president told me that he wanted a person who commanded political respect. I declined, but you know that you can't say no to him. Above and beyond this, the president chose me because I had played a role in the dialogue in times of crisis (remember that I had handled issues in Central America), and since the objective was to combine military with civilian intelligence, I began working on this issue in SIDE. And this is what has happened.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Now that you have been in your post a while, do you think that Argentina's current intelligence services ought to be the size they are now?

[Suarez] Well, look, that's a good question...I think that SIDE should be reserved for strategic intelligence and should cooperate on other specific plans with the police (drug trafficking, for example) or with the armed forces (espionage). Look, we've worked hard not to have border problems with Chile, and we've succeeded. Almost 5 years without conflicts, which is quite something after 30 years of difficulties. I don't believe in planting microphones, listening in on lawmakers, knocking on doors anymore. That's the past. I laugh about previous periods when we wanted to spy on the United States. Now we have to get the computers running, do economic and opportunities intelligence. For example, tell growers what they ought to plant after interpreting the satellite information.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] In other words, you're no longer bugging anyone's telephone? You know that's hard for me to believe, don't you?

[Suarez] We haven't gone that far. Telephone taps are used. There is a lot of work now because judges are investigating subversive activities, extremely grave matters. That alone.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Yet Carlos Menem just recently charged...

[Suarez] His charge is completely absurd. And so is Deputy Corzo's. He even showed a piece of paper from another period of SIDE. That is not Nicolas Rodriguez' signature; it's another Rodriguez.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Well, but you acknowledge that you guard the candidates, and to do that you have to monitor them in some way.

[Suarez] What we do is provide them with security. The president wants them to have the best protection when they travel, for example, so that there are no disturbances or attacks. Nothing else.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] But you must find out when undesirable or dangerous people visit the candidates here or abroad.

[Suarez] No, no. We simply notify the local police if there could be an attack on Angeloz or Menem. For example, when Menem went to Germany, we said that there was no danger from any group. Only some verbal, not physical, problem from German groups like the Greens. Remember that Mrs Peron came; we put a guard on her, but we didn't pester her. It was quite difficult, because she walked everywhere.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Is Police Commissioner Rodriguez in charge of all tapping?

[Suarez] Look, tapping is not...This is a matter for judicial bodies. Moreover, anyone can put on a tap, not necessarily SIDE, the navy or the army. There could be a gentleman who might want to know whether we're talking about buying a computer system.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] So they're going to tap you, not me.

[Suarez] Joking aside, the system is as I'm telling you. Moreover, everything is computerized; no one can pull the wool over my eyes. Police Commissioner Rodriguez is a very serious man; he was Illia's police chief. He has tremendous self-discipline and works with a group of policemen.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Does Police Commissioner Rodriguez see President Alfonsin every week too with you?

[Suarez] Sometimes, but it's not true that he sees him alone. Those are lies.

Disagreements

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Are the armed forces doing domestic intelligence work now or not?

[Suarez] It's almost impossible to tell what the limits of domestic intelligence are. Logically, there must be cooperation. The Defense Law leaves domestic intelligence in the hands of SIDE, but in drug-trafficking or smuggling cases we work with the gendarmerie or the prefecture. You can't pursue a smuggler and do like in the American westerns and observe county limits. What happens here is that the armed forces do not have domestic-intelligence targets. But in cases involving spies we logically work together.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] You like examples. Let's look at one. The case of the assault on Mataderos, where two noncommissioned navy officers died of bullet wounds. Wasn't the branch interested in that incident, which seems to involve domestic intelligence?

[Suarez] The navy is enormously interested and what it finds out it passes on to the police or to SIDE. We don't know yet whether this is a police case or the return of the guerrillas. But this is a SIDE matter.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Didn't you say that it was premature to talk about the return of the guerrillas?

[Suarez] I said that and I maintain that it is risky to claim that. But there is no question that the people involved were linked to the guerrillas. There is no argument about that. We're looking into it; we can't make it public.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] The woman judge was a bit more categorical than you; I think there were substantial disagreements.

[Suarez] Look, she says that they're connected with the guerrillas because of evidence that we ourselves provided her. She is demanding a series of measures, and if we want to find something out, we can't publicize it in the papers.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] You realize that you're in a somewhat contradictory position. You can never be believed, because by and large you can't reveal what you know, and what you reveal may be self-interested and not entirely true.

[Suarez] I can tell you in all trustworthiness: a good intelligence chief cannot say that he is investigating the guerrillas because if he thinks there are guerrillas, he even has to say that there aren't any guerrillas.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Like the economy minister who says that he's not going to devalue and then devalues.

[Suarez] Exactly, to prevent shady deals.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Getting back to domestic intelligence, you reportedly influenced Alfonsin heavily in his appointment of General Gassino as army chief.

[Suarez] No, the truth is that everything was talked over, logically, with President Alfonsin, the defense minister and the intelligence chiefs of the armed forces. The decision was the president's alone. He wanted to put in a top echelon with men from the three branches (infantry, cavalry and artillery).

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Well, it is just that approach that is being attributed to you.

[Suarez] The point was to avoid a holy war between the branches. That would be the case under Ferrucci, when everyone would be from infantry. It would be something like that under Dominguez, who was also picked but then at the last minute fell through, I don't know why. We wanted someone with character, who could carry on a dialogue, someone experienced in intelligence who knew that speaking among the men was neither a crime nor a sin. So the name Gassino came up, a sensible man, a man of leadership, a democrat and not a Radical, although I'm not sure. I don't think he is. Aside from that, he was arrested for internal army problems. Do you remember that blue and red business?

Shortcomings

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Yes, we published it in the newspaper. Was Gassino was one of your officials in SIDE?

[Suarez] He was J2 in the army, in charge of intelligence in the branch; that was the relationship. He impressed me as a calm, firm man who could analyze problems. Tough, but not an alarmist. Moreover, he always picks up a pencil and writes down solutions. I think that this is the right way for this moment.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Did you and he have problems with certain subordinate officers before the Holy Week military crisis?

[Suarez] That's a fantasy. I neither quarreled with nor bullied that boy Venturino (the lieutenant colonel who acted as Aldo Rico's second). I spoke with Venturino and told him that he was a great worker but that his thinking was completely different from the government's and mine. So Gassino removed him. But I didn't kick him out, nor did Gassino take him by the arm. I think that Venturino was loyal to me. He brought up his differences of opinion with me, which forced me to remove him; Gassino kept him in the army because he was sort of his pupil.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] And what about Gonzalez Naya?

[Suarez] I never even met him. Moreover, it's not true that he's being persecuted. Gonzalez Naya is not a SIDE target.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Is that why he hasn't been arrested?

[Suarez] Look, if we wanted to, we would arrest him. If he is, he will be jailed, but he is not considered an individual who could cause problems.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] SIDE was not made to look good in the Seineldin affair, inasmuch as SIDE men were surveilling him in Panama and they didn't even notice that he had come to Argentina to cause a revolt.

[Suarez] SIDE has someone in Panama for drug trafficking and for the banking problem after the crisis that Noriega had. Seineldin was not the target. Moreover, the colonel was a problem for the army, not for SIDE. Seineldin did not seem like a threat to the institutions. I never take up a military matter without consulting them. We do as I already told you, we cooperate. Our report concerned civilians who were trying to convince him and seemingly couldn't. The impression was that these people were betting more on Rico than on Seineldin. That was our report.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] In other words, Seineldin isn't a threat to the institutions?

[Suarez] That's what I was told. God will tell later whether he is or not.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] In other words, the military was to blame in the Seineldin affair?

[Suarez] I would say that the assessment of military intelligence was not accurate.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Couldn't it have been that military intelligence played a different role in this connection?

[Suarez] No, it was a mistaken assessment. Because the military intelligence people took the issue very seriously. Remember that in the end everything was under control. There were a lot of stories; they didn't get anything. The fact is that Alfonsin would rather have 2 hours of dialogue than 5 minutes of confrontation.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Well, in that regard, let's admit that Alfonsin said different things in just a short period of time.

[Suarez] No. Look, Caridi is given clear-cut orders to rebuild discipline. He is given clear-cut instructions, but he is not told to go over and shatter the regiments.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] But Vice President Martinez, to give another example, even said in writing that arms would have been used if necessary.

[Suarez] Of course, but the thinking always was that *there were Argentines on the other side. It was not a war against foreigners.*

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] The government seems to have been surprised by the military insurrections. Alfonsin and you were not even in the country, in fact. Is this good or poor intelligence?

[Suarez] In my case, I was in the country during Holy Week. I had done a report on that possibility. I also reported on the second one, Monte Caseros, and I even said that it wouldn't be possible for them to mobilize enough people to endanger discipline. As for the latest one, when I wasn't in the country, I reported on that one too, but I felt that they weren't going to get a leader. That was a mistake, because they did get one.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Did the rebels conduct a good military operation?

[Suarez] So much so that Seineldin was not a military target and entered the country through a public post.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] How is it that men as close to the government as Zubiri, Jaroslavsky and Berhongaray were so wrong in their initial statements about the uprising?

[Suarez] I don't know because I was in Mexico with the president. We had been told that they didn't have the capability and the minimum fire power. What was a complete surprise was the Albatross thing. We didn't have the slightest information; that was perfect from a military standpoint.

New Deal

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Didn't the president come off looking a bit awkward when he said that it was an unimportant incident?

[Suarez] Well, the incident became important at Villa Martelli. There were 15 or 20 shots later at the Infantry School, remember. Then from there came the negotiations, which will have to be explained but which slipped past intelligence.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Speaking of intelligence, do you think that these military situations are over for good now?

[Suarez] I think that there is a minority that accepts nothing and could create minor difficulties. But there are few of them. In general, the armed forces want to maintain the constitutional order. I include the rebels themselves in this; I think that if level-headed measures are taken, like the ones that now are being taken, they will not protest any more, in my judgment. The government has gone all the way to due obedience; I think that the complaints are unjustified.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] I think that what they're demanding is not amnesty for the former commanders but amnesty for themselves in connection with the Holy Week and Monte Caseros incidents, because only Seineldin got in trouble for Villa Martelli.

[Suarez] They are demanding the sort of treatment from society that the loyal forces got during the conflicts: they had flowers tossed at them, they were applauded. As for wages, I acknowledge that they have problems, because a blue-collar worker can moonlight, but not a military man.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Speaking of people who give SIDE the slip, what do you think of Mrs Peron's opinions on reconciliation?

[Suarez] Look, Mrs Peron was not an intelligence target. There was no reason to keep an eye on her. That's why we didn't know of her visit to the country.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] And what does the SIDE delegation in Spain consider a target?

[Suarez] It makes sure that there are no connections with the guerrillas, either on the far left or the far right, that they don't enter the country. Another major issue is that in Spain there is a lot of information on the British, their movements in connection with the Malvinas. Economic relations with the EEC too. Those are the issues. We have two people there. So you can see that they take care of other problems. As far as reconciliation is concerned, she already had a specific position on the issue and reaffirmed this approach with Dr Frondizi, who cultivated a friendship with her. Only, when Frondizi talked to her about the coup, they broke relations; the honeymoon was over.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] In other words, Frondizi was better informed than SIDE about Colonel Seineldin's arrival?

[Suarez] I think that he was talking about the coup. He told that to her, and Mrs Peron then voiced her disagreement. Moreover, I think that on the issue of reconciliation she was influenced by what she read of Monsignor Primatesta, not because she may have spoken with him.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Getting back to SIDE, how many new people did the government appoint?

[Suarez] Allow me to play the mystery man on this issue, "Mr 5" (Suarez' code name in the organization), as they say. No one ever knew how many officials SIDE had, because there were contracts. We've cleaned that up, and therefore, if you add the numbers up, you get the impression that we've appointed a lot of people. The payroll was expanded because the National Center for Intelligence was created. There are no more than 150 persons.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] After Alfonsin, you've got to be the official who controls the most confidential funds.

[Suarez] SIDE has a monitoring system.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] I can imagine.

[Suarez] And the Official Auditing Department. You may not believe it, but confidential spending has been cut severely because it has been this government's rule. Spies are no longer being chased. There has been investment in telephones, computers. Our equipment is not world class, but it is among the best in Latin America.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Do you know that the biggest objection to SIDE is that the income of its personnel has more to do with politics than ability. Moreover, if you look at the top echelon of SIDE, don't you have to admit that the leadership is more political than professional?

[Suarez] Look, the relatives of military personnel used to be there before. I would say to you that it really has been depoliticized. Experienced armed forces personnel have been called on. I can tell you proudly that we've integrated military with civilian personnel. The leadership yes...

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Besides being politicians, did they have any experience in this area?

[Suarez] No one has experience in this area, not even the military personnel who were assigned here. This is why we've put in a school.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Who runs it?

[Suarez] A group of professors, of specialists.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] I'm asking you about the administration, not the teachers.

[Suarez] An engineer, Viola, runs the school; he has 5 years experience, because Penna brought him in. There are Radicals, but decisions are made by a council of professors, people from the armed forces, etc. Now, it stands to reason that the leadership is Radical. I can tell you that when Angeloz came, he told me not to introduce him to the secretaries because he already knew all of them.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Didn't Menem come?

[Suarez] No, but he asked for reports. Listen, we have Peronists here too.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] On salary?

[Suarez] On salary and on the payroll.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] You realize that a journalist, for example, stands out because of a certain article he wrote. For what should SIDE be remembered during these years of Radicalism?

[Suarez] SIDE does not make decisions; it offers options to the president.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Like a staff?

[Suarez] Yes sir. The president accepts or rejects the option. There is no joint government. The information is later evaluated in the cabinet meeting.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] You're an intelligence man and you know that Alfonsin doesn't hold cabinet meetings.

[Suarez] There are meetings, there are; he talks things over with his ministers, even if not with all of them. He meets with five or six of them, discusses matters and even summons them on weekends.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Are you the person who sees the president the most?

[Suarez] That's the nature of the job. I come directly under him.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Is the president interested in the polls?

[Suarez] Yes, of course, he reads them all. Then he talks things over.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Would you say he is curious by nature?

[Suarez] He is interested; you have to go and...

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Bring him information?

[Suarez] I would say that I go in for questioning every week.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Not twice a week?

[Suarez] No, because the next day we talk about the information.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] You didn't answer me about his being curious.

[Suarez] He wants to map out how things stand, how the government's work is going. Opinions are voiced; he never argues. As you know, he writes down almost everything that people tell him.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] As a final comment, I would say to you that it is not often that the intelligence chiefs of countries get to be known; by and large, none of them speak out. Speaking out seems to run counter to the business of intelligence. You do the opposite, and although I don't think that you tell secrets, in a way you are violating these basic tenets of intelligence work.

[Suarez] The purpose of this talk was to demystify the intelligence services and to show what they really do, with the appropriate discretion. I want SIDE to shed the image of conspiracy or ideological persecution that it always had. Although secrecy is a hallmark of SIDE, it is not a diabolical organization. It does not conspire against people; this is why I'm talking and explaining. The previous system became distorted because instead of intelligence, surveillance was used, which is why the black lists, the SIDE reports appeared. Everything became further complicated with the guerrilla violence. People were being filmed. Remember that Osinde was the chief. The military used SIDE very actively, although General Martinez lent it professionalism.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Could this judgment about Martinez put you at odds with your fellow party members?

[Suarez] Look, I don't know Martinez, but there was a change under him when he replaced Paladino. I'm going by the background information and I think that he tried to establish order.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] You told me that no one is under surveillance any more. Not even government officials themselves?

[Suarez] We can't surveil a single official unless we receive official instructions to.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] In other words, you don't investigate if hanky-panky is discovered at Customs or Commerce, to mention places where Radicalism has been involved in scandals.

[Suarez] We investigate anything that is a crime or that worries the president, who also decides whether a judge ought to be involved. I cannot investigate an official on my own; that's against the rules. Only the president decides whether I do something or whether we go to a judge or whether the two of us act together.

* Recent Events Spur Debate on Defense Law

33480111b Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jan 89 p 10

[Text] The intervention of the armed forces, in conjunction with the police, to end the takeover of the 3d Infantry Regiment at La Tablada has sparked a controversy in the National Congress over the defense law.

Although the law bans armed forces intervention against subversion, where they must yield to the security forces, the military's action reopened the "gray area" that was brought up in congressional debate, in the sense that the military would intervene only if the "fire power" of the police or the gendarmerie were outstripped by the guerrilla forces.

Consulted by the NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS agency, the chairman of the Defense Committee of the lower house, Balbino Zubiri, contended that "there is no contradiction, because Article 86 of the National Constitution authorizes the president of the nation to summon the armed forces "in his capacity as supreme commander."

Zubiri argued that "the defense law is a general principle, and as far as I know, President Alfonsin gave the order for military intervention" to help the police.

The head of the bloc of Peronist senators, Eduardo Menem, took the same tack, asserting that the defense law "does not ban the intervention of the armed forces in cases like this, because otherwise we would have the absurdity of not being able to act in self-defense."

"In any event, I wonder how the intelligence services could not have detected an operation of this scope," the senator from La Rioja remarked.

Moreover, the second vice president of the lower house and leader of the UCD [Democratic Center Union], Alvaro Alsogaray, asserted that the defense law has been violated, because the president of the nation gave the order, when he should have been the first to obey it."

Reconciliation Law

The presidential candidate of the Center Alliance indicated that "it is ridiculous to prevent the Armed Forces from taking action, as the law provides, and the UCD bloc is going to insist during the regular sessions on amending the law."

The Bloquista senator from San Juan, Leopoldo Bravo, put forth similar arguments. He described the defense law as "unenforceable" and indicated that "the subversives showed bloodthirsty cruelty in an action whose gravity equals or surpasses the episodes of the last decade."

Bravo underscored the need to pass a "reconciliation law that does minimum justice to the men of the armed and security forces who were tried and convicted for having fought the scourge of subversion."

In addition, the Autonomist senator from Corrientes, Jose Romero Feris, voiced his "most forceful condemnation of the resurgence of subversive terrorism" and expressed his "public gratitude to the armed forces and the Security Forces for the exemplary discharge of their duty" in quelling the attempt to take over the General Belgrano Regiment. (NA)

* Army Food Suppliers Protest Unpaid Bills

* Problem Since 1984

33480111c Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 20 Jan 89 p 4

[Text] The suppliers of food to the army yesterday finally decided to suspend deliveries to all of the country's garrisons because of their unpaid bills. The government insisted yesterday that around noon the Treasury had cleared some 120 million australes for the armed forces (Finance acknowledges a 250-million austral debt to the men in uniform) to prevent this unusual supply cutoff for the military. In spite of the signals that were picked up at the Economy Ministry, an assembly opened yesterday at around 1700 hours at the headquarters of the Union of State Suppliers (UAPE), at which a decision was made to suspend deliveries as of Monday. The suppliers complained that payments are up to 120 days late.

The background of this conflict goes back to the early years of the Radical administration, when around 1984 some shortcomings in the Defense Ministry's financial planning for the actual incorporation of men into the military caused such disruption that the suppliers had major problems collecting what was owed them.

Meanwhile, the successive military crises meant that the suppliers had to make a special effort to remind the brand new commanders of the promises that their retired predecessors had made. Recently, for example, a virtual agreement had been reached with the previous head of army finances, General Pascuso, but his successor, General Visio, has apparently not come up with a suitable response to the suppliers' demands.

The budget secretary of the Defense Ministry, Adalberto Rodriguez Llavarini, would seem to have an even more confusing job on his hands, as he recently agreed to meet with the suppliers next Tuesday.

* Defense Ministry Blamed

33480111c Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Feb 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Protest by Army Suppliers"]

[Text] An assembly at the headquarters of the Union of State Suppliers has resolved to suspend deliveries of food to all army garrisons. The conflict points up the concerns that the interested parties have been raising since 1984, when the shortcomings in the Defense Ministry's planning for the actual incorporation of army personnel caused such disruption, they reported, that the suppliers had trouble collecting their bills.

We have indicated on different occasions that the government's debts to suppliers totaled approximately 40 billion australes. This information has not been denied by the authorities, but there have probably been changes. At the recent impromptu press conference that the chief of state gave, one newsman asked him what the country's domestic and foreign was. The president talked only about commitments to foreign banks and "forgot" to answer the rest of the question.

The country's economic condition should be made public under a democratic government, as the details are not always revealed in the official messages to the annual Legislative Assembly. It is important for the government to clearly state what it owes to its suppliers and to explain the reasons for its arrears, which are hampering official relations with domestic industry and commerce. Such arrears are so common that competitive bidders generally quote higher than current prices for the items that they supply, to the country's detriment, because they represent capital investments that must earn interest as such. Incidents of this nature serve to discredit the actions of government.

Brazil

Ministry Reports Selecting IBRD Loans

PY0903015089 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Mar 89 p 12

[Text] Brasilia—Brazil is changing its strategy for negotiating World Bank loans in order to avoid signing contracts with conditions that are practically impossible to fulfill. This new attitude is the reason that $4.8 billion from the IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] portfolio of ending Brazilian projects has not been released. The Planning Ministry is closely watching the IBRD missions in Brazil. Only those missions that are considered suitable get the green light. The ministry is thus preventing IBRD missions from negotiating directly with other ministries, state governments, or prefectures, for loans that later might not be disbursed because contractual conditions are not met. Some of these conditions include a state contribution, the structural reorganization of administrative machinery, and structural reforms.

According to an important adviser on economic matters, the IBRD Brazilian Department until only a short time ago merely notified the government about the visits of their missions. They could thus practically select by themselves the projects they would finance. Ministries, state governments, and prefectures used to sign the contracts without making a careful analysis of its conditions. According to the adviser, neither the Brazilian authorities nor the IBRD technicians considered these negotiations appropriate.

During the last 3 months the Finance Ministry and Planning Ministry have been working on a comprehensive report on all projects that are listed in the IBRD portfolio. The report is scheduled to be ready this week. It will be used for a broad discussion on the issue with Armeane Choksi, head of the IBRD Brazil Department, who is scheduled to arrive in Brasilia on 14 March.

The Brazilian Government wants to speed up the approval of either the project for reform of the financial sector or the project on foreign trade during the 1988/89 IBRD fiscal year that ends in June. The approval of such agreements would mean the entry of $500 million in 1989, a sum that will strengthen the country's balance of payments.

Military Rejects Foreign 'Interference' in Amazon

PY0903001589 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The military ministers held a meeting in Brasilia today to discuss the Amazon issue. At the end of the meeting, Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves reaffirmed the government's decision not to acquiesce to foreign interests in the Amazon.

[Begin Pires recording] We will not allow any type of interference in the Amazon. We will accept cooperation, but it is up to the Brazilian Government to use this cooperation as it wishes. We will not allow quiet interference in the Amazon

Update on Health of Communications Minister

PY0704122389 Brasilia Radio National da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Communications Minister Carlos Antonio Carlos Magalhaes has left the Intensive Care Unit of the Heart Institute of Sao Paulo. He is now in an apartment on the 8th floor of the institute where he was hospitalized 10 days ago following a heart attack. He is still not allowed to receive visitors and the physicians have not yet set the date for the operation in which the minister will receive a triple bypass.

According to the Heart Institute bulletin, Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes is in stable condition.

Chile

Reportage on Relations With Argentina

Press Report Dismissed

PY0803161589 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has labeled as a press fabrication an article published by the Argentine newspaper CLARIN which states that the Argentine and Chilean Foreign Ministries have been working hard since the beginning of the year to reverse a process of growing tension in their bilateral relations.

The article, which is signed by Oscar Raul Cardoso, states that the Argentine Foreign Ministry releases statements on tensions with Chile that are deliberately unclear. They are, however, based on an increased number of minor incidents along the long common border between the two countries and consequently on the increase of reciprocal protest notes being exchanged between the two countries.

Foreign Minister on Ties

PY0803230289 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Report from La Moneda palace by Pia Diaz]

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has denied that the government has any problems with Argentina. Those who are reporting tension between the two countries are mistaken because such reports are groundless, he said.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] There is a close relationship between Chile and Argentina, with common interests—national interests—and a border extending for more than 5,000 km.

Of course, all these matters have their own standards. They have a clear-cut standard in keeping with the proper channels.

There is a smooth relationship with the Argentine Foreign Ministry, a relationship that has always been proper and traditional with the embassies. The two foreign ministers are also in contact. I maintain a good relationship with Foreign Minister Caputo, whom I have known for many years.

Now then, we in Chile are quite aware of the fact that Chile and Argentina (?are going through) important stages in their political and economic processes. There are no reasons for, nor should there be any interest in, introducing separation and rifts between the Chilean and Argentine peoples and their governments. [end recording]

Asked about an article published by the Argentine newspaper CLARIN, reporting increasing tensions between the two countries, Errazuriz said he is not in a position to review the motives of people who are trying to present the relationship between Chile and Argentina in a negative way.

In conclusion, the foreign minister was asked about the problems that could be involved in the Cardoen Company manufacturing arms in Chile under a South African license, as this would violate treaties that Chile has signed with the United Nations.

The foreign minister said there are no restrictions in Chile on a private sector operation involving the transfer of technology. In this case, he said, this operation does not involve an arms purchase or an arms sale to South Africa. This is just a transfer of technology between a Chilean individual and a Chilean private company on one hand, and a South African concern on the other.

Reportage on New PCCh Decisions

Armed Struggle Supported

PY0703233189 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] The PCCh [Communist Party of Chile] Human Rights Committee does not rule out armed struggle as a political strategy.

Leaders of the Marta Ugarte Committee of the proscribed PCCh, headed by Berta Manriquez, have disclosed decisions of their congress.

The PCCh Human Rights Committee leaders are asking the opposition to unite and are resolutely supporting the nomination of a single and unanimously approved presidential candidate of all the opposition forces.

They said that the Communists will support all the mobilizations of the masses, and that it is imperative to struggle.

Former Congressman Leopoldo Ortega has dismissed the existence of rank-and-file self-defense organizations. He expressed the appropriateness of the military training of the rank and file in order to be prepared to take a rebellious stand whenever it is necessary.

Aylwin Candidacy Supported

PY0703235689 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Feb 89 p C-2

[Text] The PCCh [Communist Party of Chile] Central Station [Estacion Central] Committee has reiterated its willingness to suport Aylwin's presidential candidacy, or the candidacy "of any other candidate willing to satisfy the people's aspirations." These statements were made by committee representatives when reporting on the 18 and 19 February debates on issues of the 15th PCCh congress.

The representatives explained that the meeting not only rejected "all types of exclusive policies," but also "sought formulas to continue developing the popular rebellion beginning with the analysis of the new conditions created by the 5 October victory."

Committee spokespersons Iris Pizarro, Rosa Catalan, and Galvarino Melo reported that the committee approved the full text of the PCCh Central Committee's call to the congress. The congress actually began after the document was published, and it is still going on. The debates are currently being held at different levels that include the local cells and the national delegates board.

The committee also agreed there was a need to promote the broad unity of all opposition forces, and rejected "all types of exclusive policies." The PCCh committee representatives clearly stated their willingness to support "Patricio Aylwin or any other presidential candidate willing to satisfy the people's aspirations."

The document released at the end of the meeting says that the imminent election of a "democratic bourgeois" government moves us to propose the implementation of measures to benefit "the interests of the working class and the people."

The document adds: "We commit ourselves to continue working for the unity of all leftist sectors so as to make possible the consolidation of an advanced and democratic government that will pave the way for a victory of a socialist revolution in Chile."

Most of the Central Station Committee decisions at the local level can be summarized in the proposal "to consolidate a community power base that will serve as an alternative to the one imposed" by the present government.

The document includes concrete demands at this level such as the complete closing of the Lo Errazuriz spillway, the installation of street lights on critical corners, the creation of a Culture House, rehabilitation programs for young addicts, the solution to the problem of overcrowding, the investigation of human rights violations, the recognition of the "democratized" neighborhood committees, the construction of a community hospital, the opening of "at least six new schools," etc.

The Central Station Committee concluded by stressing its support for the list of petitions submitted by the Central Labor Union, for the Vicariate of Solidarity, and for the upcoming commemoration of International Women's Day.

Once the debates at the community level end, the PCCh congress will continue at the regional level. The deliberations will possibly end in the first weeks of April.

Officialist Parties Meet To Form Coalition

PY0803023089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] The first official and serious attempt to unite the political parties that confronted the opposition in the plebiscite took place in the offices of the Radical Democracy Party [PDR] today.

A little after 1900, the PDR leadership met with the National Renewal Party [PRN] president and general secretary to establish the initial guidelines for future talks to clarify the proposals of the two parties that favor a free society in view of the upcoming election.

The PDR leadership representatives included PDR President Jaime Tormo and Julio Duran. Shortly before the meeting Tormo said that the initiative was propelled by the failure of a previous attempt of the center-right sectors to unite their parties.

Tormo added there was an almost clear agreement between his party, the PRN, and the National Party [PN] to work on a common platform.

PRN General Secretary Andres Alleman said they will not sign any documents, but added that the topics of discussion will be constitutional reform, the electoral law, and the common guidelines for a government program.

When the meeting started this afternoon, Jaime Tormo said they will participate in the discussions of the four commissions that were set up as suggested by the PRN. Tormo added that two of these commissions were already working.

Tormo said the meetings will also succeed in finding a single candidate to represent their sector in the upcoming election. [PRN President] Sergio Onofre Jarpa, in turn, praised the initiative.

Military Judge's Decision on Letelier Appealed

PY0803020589 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Lawyer Fabiola Letelier, sister of Orlando Letelier, who was murdered in Washington, has appealed the decision made by military judge Carlos Parara, who on 2 March rejected a request to reopen the Letelier case.

The 11-page note gives new and sufficient reason to reopen the case, saying that the statements by Armando Fernandez Larios are valid. The appeal gives 16 reasons to reopen the case, and the first one rebuts the military judge's decision. The judge stated in his resolution that while the previous request to reopen the case does provide better information for an investigation, it is not strong enough to substantiate the reopening of the case.

Colombia

Barco Speech Urges Citizens To Defend Peace

PA0903045489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0243 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Speech by President Virgilio Barco in Bogota on 8 March—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...to the conflicts that sadden the nation. During the funeral ceremony, the Patriotic Union once again showed that its commitment to participate in politics through civilized means is serious, real, and genuine.

The prudent attitude of the citizens and the serene presence of the forces of order in the capital prevented public order disturbances. The few sporadic dirturbances have been controlled; the government and the security forces are on alert to prevent any violent protests.

The evil assassins, who are real terrorists, believe—by destroying the right to life and obstructing the right of speech and the right to actively participate in politics—they will slowly destroy a democracy we all must make increasingly more solid and stable.

The only thing that could destabilize is our becoming victims of uncertainty and pessimism, and our forgetting the country's genuine achievements and potential and the real dimension of its problems.

I am sure that among the Colombian people there is a feeling of rejection of the barbarism of violence as a mechanism for political action. The reply all Colombians must give to all those who want to deal a blow to our democracy is to reaffirm our trust in the institutions, our tolerance for other people's ideas, our respect for human rights, and our support for peaceful means to solve controversies.

There are political party leaders who say the one-party rule [partidismo excluyente del poder] is not useful in Colombia. I ask all Colombians, especially those who have a high sense of responsibility toward the fatherland, not to reduce the problem to a relationship between political parties.

We must be and feel Colombians before members of a party. What we need, what the country needs is the solidarity of each Colombian regardless of his political affiliation. To successfully overcome this situation, there must be an active solidarity; a genuine solidarity from the citizens.

We are not talking about rhetorical statements of solidarity and repudiation of crime, but specific cooperation by reporting actions and individuals suspected of being linked to crimes.

Special laws issued by this government, based on a state of siege, has allowed the authorities to maintain the secrecy of, change the identity of, and protect and economically compensate those who collaborate with information and reports.

The citizens must react by standing by the institutions, supporting the legitimate authorities, and collaborating with security forces, investigation organizations, and the justice administration.

Anything that weakens, paralyzes, or renders inefficient the authorities is detrimental to social harmony and to our own well being. Anything strengthening it will mean security and coexistence.

We are living in times that demand of us, each one of us, a balance and objective outlook of our situation, an outlook that will recognize and promote our achievements and successes and that is aware of the weaknesses we must overcome with faith and confidence in our present and future—faith and confidence that are supported in what we have already achieved with so much effort.

For example, efforts to correct past mistakes of the government and of the investigative organizations are producing results. In this regard, the government has acted on several fronts to make the duties of judges more effective: [there have been] new laws, decrees, state of siege provisions, increased funding, more personnel in security organizations, trained and specialized investigators, modern equipment, the cooperation of international experts, and strict supervision by the Attorney General's Office; in sum, the government has used the most practical and inventive procedures possible.

It is true that impunity has not been eliminated. But it is no less true that we have made important steps to ensure that the full force of the law is applied to terrorists, common criminals, and drug traffickers. Undoubtedly, government measures have strengthened justice and made it more efficient. However, judges and investigators who are pursuing the masterminds of atrocious crimes are now being murdered. The La Rochela massacre is evidence of this: 13 of the masterminds and accomplices of this massacre have already been captured.

I know you are wondering what we are doing to protect threatened people or those are in jeopardy. What are we doing to identify and bring to justice the masterminds and perpetrators of crimes that have caused a national uproar? What are we doing to bring to an end the groups of assasins hired or organized by extremist groups that are promoting this criminal escalation?

The information that I will now mention shows that we are making great efforts, although I realize we can do even more and we will do more. As for the protection of people, the Patriotic Union, the party to which most of the activists and leaders murdered by the extremists, said in a letter sent to me last Saturday: We thank you very much for providing some of our leaders with bodyguards.

Actually, the government has ordered the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] to step up its bodyguard service. The leader who was killed Friday had four bodyguards and an armored car; Ernesto Samper was also protected. More people must now be protected. The DAS is providing this service to more than 321 people.

Despite all these efforts, I have taken additional measures that will be revealed at the appropriate time. The issue of guaranteeing the lives of those who are peacefully engaged in politics will be included on the agenda of talks with rebel groups.

As for investigations and capture of criminals, the public must know about some significant results that I wish to mention. For example, investigations pertaining to massacres have linked 106 people to them. There are orders to arrest more than half of these people; 35 have been captured. People involved in drug trafficking, including major criminals, are being sought for their ties to last year's Uraba massacre.

Also, judges have ordered the arrest of Armed Forces members suspected of complicity in other crimes. Violence must be punished regardless of the source. The Armed Forces and the National Police have shown their respect for democracy. They are being supported by the citizens and the government. The great efforts they are making with professionalism and with respect for the law cannot be tarnished by the individual actions of a few of their members. This is is why justice is dealing out appropriate punishments for all abuses and excesses.

The groups of hired assasins and those organized by extremists have also felt the force of the law. The report that I requested from DAS mentions the groups that have already been dismantled, including some of the most dangerous: (Falco), the Smudged Ones, a faction of MAS [Death to Kidnappers] operating in Santander, the Valle del Cauca death squad, An Eye for an Eye or National Socialist Workers and Students Movement in Cordoba, (Tesos), (Nachos), (Priscos), (Cucarachos), and (La Nata) in Medellin.

The dismantling of these groups, and the trial and punishment of their supporters, regardless of who they are, continues.

Judges are called on to administer justice. However, we need to support the investigators and judges, who are truly making a great effort.

We must make this effort because there is little criminals can do in response to a community that has expressed solidarity with our authorities and that is determined to defend its right to peaceful coexistence. We are well aware of our society's strengths and weaknesses, and tonight I would like to share some of my views on this issue with you.

Significant progress has been made toward reconciliation with the 19 April Movement [M-19] and with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]. The people are aware of the unilateral FARC cease-fire and of the efforts a group of prominent figures will make. The people are also aware of the progress achieved by the government here and in Mexico during direct talks with the M-19, which also unilaterally suspended hostilities; however, at the same time, last week we experienced and were horrified by an escalation of criminal actions. The origins and causes of this escalation are very complex: vengeance and the habit of resorting to violence, which have been pursued for several decades, and especially the desperation of extremist groups in response to the increasingly realistic possibility that the reconciliation process—especially with the M-19—will gain even more support, become stronger, and produce new results that are likely to bring peace.

Progress has been made toward reconciliation, but violence and vengeance still rage. Pessimists only mention the criminal actions that take place, thus denying support for the difficult and complex reconciliation tasks under way. Our country, our fatherland, has undoubtedly made economic and social progress despite the violence. The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], for example, points out that Colombia's short-term economic prospects are favorable. If Colombia takes adequate advantage of the opportunities its domestic market offers and maintains the upward trend of its noncoffee exports, it will be able to maintain an economic growth rate comparable to that of recent years, thus achieving a sustained medium-term growth. This, I repeat, was reported by the IDB.

Our country has also advanced in the struggle against drug trafficking. The U.S. Government has acknowledged this in an official report, which states eloquently: Few countries have committed as many national resources or lost as many lives as Colombia in an effort to halt drug trafficking, and we continue to greatly admire that determination.

These impartial and just words contrast with those that only seek to promote desperation and feelings of failure and frustration. The barbarous actions of a small group have been firmly rejected by all Colombians, regardless of party affiliation. We wish to fight together for our peaceful coexistence, the defense of human rights, and the maintenance of public order.

Countrymen, I have pledged to promote and affect social, economic, and political change, so that we can live in a more just society, and so that we can avoid the serious evils that have led the country to a situation of violence and terrorism. We are doing our duty when, without losing our calm over the serious events that have taken place, we continue implementing government socioeconomic programs that represent a better future for Colombians, who for years have been forgotten and abandoned.

Further violence will not end violence. Violence will only destroy confidence in our democratic institutions. Crime has led the Colombian people to reject violence as a political instrument and has prompted us to continue working vigorously for reconciliation and to place a much higher value on the principles of democracy and civilization.

Terrorists will not have the satisfaction of having created an atmosphere of anxiety and desolation. Once again I ask you not to play into the hands of the violent, who want to create panic and distrust in our institutions. Let us play into Colombia's hands, its promising future, its potential; let us do the things we want to do, have done, and will continue to do to build a better Colombia for everyone. Thank you, good evening, and so long.

UP President Jaramillo on Antequera's Murder

PA0903040689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1814 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Bogota, 8 Mar (DPA)—In a comminique sent from abroad in the past few hours, Patriotic Union (UP) President Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa has stated the murder of leftist leader Jose Antequera, who was riddled with bullets on 3 March by unidentified individuals, hurts the possibilities of a dialogue between the government and Colombian guerrilla groups.

Jaramillo Ossa, who unexpectedly moved up a trip to several European countries in the face of constant death threats, said the murder of Antequera, head of political affairs for UP, the country's largest leftist party, fits "within the framework of a dirty war being waged by obscure forces of militarism and the reaction against our people."

This, he added, "hurts the possibilities of a dialogue started by the guerrilla movement and the government of (President Virgilio) Barco to find a political solution demanded by the country to the fraticidal confrontation casting into mourning more Colombian households day after day.

In his message, the parliamentarian asked the chief executive for "real action" to eliminate right-wing paramilitary groups accused of murdering hundreds of popular leaders in Colombia in the past few years. [passage omitted]

Paraguay

Unity of Colorado Party Factions Thwarted

PY0703235189 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 Mar 89 pp 8, 9

[TExt] Just when everything indicated that the unity of all Colorado Party factions was imminent, the negotiations reached a dead end. A meeting yesterday to discuss party unity, within the framework of the new reality existing in the country, between the ruling Colorado Party Restoration Board and representatives of the MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement], the MOPOCONA [National MOPOCO], the ANRER [National Republican Association in Exile and the Resistance], and the Ethics [Ethical and Doctrinaire Movement] failed to reach an agreement.

The counterproposal submitted by the Restoration Board leaders offering a 10-percent representation to the other movements—they asked for a 50-percent representation—created dissatisfaction among these movements, whose representatives met immediately afterward and issued a document saying they were breaking off the dialogue because the party authorities were not responsive to their petitions.

The note addressed to the presidency of the party communicates "the decision to break off negotiations for the total unity of all party factions, something that is cherished by all Colorados. This decision is based on the following: 1) The astonishing proposal made by party President Juan R. Chaves during the meeting today (yesterday) to limit the representation of all our movements in the lists for members of the Colorado Party Executive Board, the Chamber of Deputies, and the Senate to a ridiculous 10 percent."

The second point of the document says: "Serious procedural violations are systematically and continuously taking place in Colorado Party precinct elections throughout the country at a time when we are preparing for the party convention. The imposition of single tickets and candidates in violation of the right of all Colorados to participate in the selection of candidates will threaten the legitimacy of the current electoral process and the internal peace of the party. All these mistakes are the direct responsibility of the Party Reorganization Committee headed by Juan Esteche Fanego."

The third paragraph points out "the obvious contradictions between party attitudes and the Armed Forces proclamation that was ratified by the provisional government, particularly in the section that refers to the unity of the Colorado Party without restrictions or limits, and the desire to bring democracy to our country. We want to clearly state here that we do not authorize the inscription of our names in the list of members of the Colorado Party Restoration Board. With this note we want to make clear who is responsible if we fail to unite the party. Finally, we reiterate our will to continue seeking the unity we all yearn for."

PDC Recognized, To Participate in Elections

PY0704200489 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Mar 89 p 9

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) was legally recognized by the Electoral Board. Immediately afterward, PDC spokesmen announced that the PDC is willing to participate in the upcoming elections with its own candidate.

PDC members were greatly pleased with the legal recognition of the party, which comes 19 years after the PDC submitted its first request to the electoral board and 2 years after the Supreme Court issued a ruling against the legal recognition of the party.

PDC Vice President Justo Medina said: "We will run with our own candidates basically because the PDC has its own identity. I also believe the PDC has a very distinctive doctrine, and that it has much to contribute to the democratization of our country."

He added: "We would have liked to hold elections under better conditions. But under the present circumstances the PDC is a young party that wants to assume a role in these historic times our country is experiencing. We accept the challenge of the government of General Rodriguez. We are going to participate in the 1 May elections with our people, with our platform, and with our candidate."

Medina said the first thing the PDC will do is "to register PDC members in the electoral boards and in the justice of the peace offices. [no quote as published] [item ends]

Presidential Candidates for Election Proposed

Rodriguez for Colorado Party

PY0903002589 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Live report from Colorado Party headquarters by Augusto Ocampo Caballero]

[Excerpts] A meeting of the executive board of the Colorado Party has just concluded. We are now going to read excerpts of a resolution that has just been approved by the executive board. [passage omitted]

The executive board resolves:

1. To propose the nomination of Division General Andres Rodriguez as the Colorado Party's presidential candidate by the convention to be held on 1 and 2 April.

2. To deliver a copy of this resolution to His Excellency President Andres Rodriguez at the Lopez Palace.

Colorado Party chairman Juan Ramon Chaves said he will contact government palace officials tomorrow to set a date for the members of the Colorado executive board to meet with Provisional President Rodriguez to hand him a copy of this resolution.

Ibarra for Liberal Party

PY0803141889 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 8 Mar 89 p 7

[Text] During a meeting held yesterday at the house of Valeriano Mancuello, Liberal Party (PL) members and leaders throughout the country chose Carlos Ferreira Ibarra as the PL candidate for the 1 May presidential elections.

Mancuello reported that Ferreira Ibarra's candidacy was unanimously supported by all PL members. He added that Ferreira Ibarra's candidacy "will be officially launched this week at the PL headquarters in compliance with the statutes."

Safe-Conduct Granted to Former Minister

PY0704152189 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Mar 89 pp 6, 7

[Text] The Paraguayan Government has granted safe-conduct to former Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro so he may seek asylum in Honduras. The final negotiations were completed yesterday between Honduran Ambassador Roberto Suazo Tome and Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana.

Speaking about the basis on which the Honduran and Paraguayan Governments have agreed to grant safe-conduct to Montanaro, Foreign Minister Argana said that the Paraguayan Government has granted the safe-conduct "with the condition that Montanaro will reside in Honduran territory for a minimun of 90 days and that the Honduran Government will be willing to extradite Montanaro when the Paraguayan Government makes such a request after the legal requirements are met."

Yesterday afternoon the Honduran ambassador and Foreign Minister Argana were scheduled to hold a meeting to discuss final details on the issue. Argana explained that the Honduran ambassador was unable to hold the meeting, however, "because the ambassador had to consult his foreign minister on the established deadline but he was unable to contact him. Therefore, the ambassador requested another meeting (today) to discuss the last details."

Honduran Ambasador Suazo Tome, who is concurrent ambassador to Argentina, arrived in Asuncion from Buenos Aires on 5 March. He arrived here strictly to conclude the negotiations which started a few weeks ago. Upon his arrival, Suazo Tome said that once Montanaro obtains a safeconduct from the government, they will immediately leave for Honduras.

Regarding a possible extradition, Foreign Minister Argana said: "When a warrant of arrest has been issued, and if it involves a non-political crime which is subject to a punishment of no less than 2 years, it can be considered. This is the general rule."

He added that Paraguay and Honduras "do not have a bilateral extradition treaty in force but an extradition will be feasible through notes that the two governments will exchange." Argana also said that now Montanaro's exit from the country is not a question of a government decision but on whether or not he can get a plane ticket. After the 90-day deadline expires, Montanaro will have the right to choose where he wants to reside outside Honduras.

Montanaro is the only member of the former Colorado Party board who has sought asylum. As it is well-known, Montanaro sought asylum at the Honduran diplomatic mission in Asuncion on the night of 2 February where he was accepted by Honduran Consul Federico Regunega.

Executive Branch Appoints Officials

PY0703200589 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
7 Mar 89 p 6

[Summary] Through decree No 276, the Executive Branch has appointed Nelson Chaves as a member of the board of the Itaipu Binational Company. He replaces Silvio Meza Britez. The Executive Branch also appointed Colonel DEM [general staff degree] Pedro Pena Villalba as chief of the Special Operations Group. He replaces Colonel DEM Galo L. Escobar. The latter has been appointed Chief of the Mariscal Francisco Solano Lopez Military School. The Executive Branch has also appointed the following mayors: Ruben Garcete Gonzalez as mayor of Bella Vista, Guillermo Cabral Gimenez as mayor of Concepcion, Fernando Mario Urizar as mayor of Curupayty, and Pedro Hugo Ovelar as mayor of Juan Leon Mallorquin.

Further Appointments

PY0803231989 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
8 Mar 89 p 13

[Text] The government has issued several decrees, appointing and replacing a number of people. Through Decree No 316 it confirmed Rodney Elpidio Acevedo as a member of Yacyreta Binational Entity [EBY] administration council and replaced EBY council member Ramon Enrique Reverchon with Victor Galeano Perrone.

The government issued another decree naming Eladio Loizaga Caballero as the new Foreign Ministry representative at the EBY administration council, replacing Luis Enrique Chase Plate.

Through Decree No 310 the government accepted the resignation of Rear Admiral Ramon Martino as president of the National Navigation and Ports Administration board of directors and named Argaban Antonio Amarilla to replace him.

The Executive Branch also accepted the resignation of National Tourism Department Director Jorge Patricio Escobar Genes and named Derlis Esteche Vazquez to replace him. The government also issued Decree No 315 by which it dismissed Adolfo A. Paredes from the Paraguayan Consulate General in Genova, Italy, and Decree No 314 by which it relieved Juan Alberto Llanes as Paraguayan representative of the OAS and named Marcos Martinez Mendieta, current ambassador to the United States, to replace him concurrently without leaving his present post.

National Cement Industry To Be Privatized

PY0903024489 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
7 Mar 89 p 13

[Excerpts] This morning Industry and Commerce Minister Antonio Zuccolillo announced that the National Cement Industry (INC) will be privatized and that the government is studying whether the privatization should be partial or complete. The minister added that many international concerns are interested in purchasing part of the INC shares.

Minister Zuccolillo talked with reporters at the end of a meeting with President Andres Rodriguez: "We are studying the issue of INC privatization. We have met with the economic team and the council of ministers to discuss whether the INC should be totally or partially privatized. We are surprised by the number of Brazilian, Argentine, and other international companies that are interested in purchasing shares. We are really surprised to find so many people interested in purchasing INC shares." [passage omitted]

The minister said that the INC has a foreign debt of $200 million. "The debt with the Central Bank would be considered a state contribution. We can thus consider that the plant is already 50 percent paid for," the minister added.

Zuccolillo was emphatic when stating: "The INC is far from being a 'white elephant,' as people say. The INC is an excellent factory that can produce 1,100,000 tons of cement per year. We are presently conducting an audit of the INC."

Uruguayan Transportation Minister Visits

PY0803181889 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 8 Mar 89 p 15

[Excerpt] Uruguayan Transportation Minister Jorge Sanguinetti is in Asuncion to discuss the integration of countries of the River Plate Basin through the use of the Parana and Paraguay Rivers.

The Uruguayan minister arrived in Asuncion yesterday. Immediately after his arrival, Sanguinetti met with Public Works Minister Porfirio Pereira Ruiz Diaz and Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana.

Sanguinetti also held a news conference with Paraguayan journalists. Commenting on specific ways in which regional integration may be achieved, Sanguinetti said:

"We already have specific offers from the River Plate Basin Development Fund (FONPLATA) and the IDB, to finance the project." [passage omitted]

Peru

Economy Minister on Suspended IDB Payments

PY0803133189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Economy Minister Carlos Rivas Davila today reported that our international reserves are increasing. This shows, he said, that our economy is recovering.

The minister also said that the IDB has not declared Peru ineligible, because they do not use this term. The minister added that the money Peru has decided not to pay to the IDB will be used to commission the (Carhuaquero) electrical plant.

[Begin recording] [Rivas Davila] Today, I received a communique on the Peruvian position regarding our debt with the IDB. I would like to establish and ratify the Peruvian position by explaining that we do need foreign capital. This capital will contribute to our development.

We have heard some comments that give the impression that we are not willing to pay our debts. This is not so. We do honor our debts, but we also expect to obtain special attention and positive results from negotiations. I will give you an example of what I mean by that: In February, we should have paid $12 million to the IDB, but we did not receive any money that month. In March, we should have paid $12 million more, but again we did not receive a single dollar.

In the permanent meetings that we hold with the economic groups to appraise our economy we realized that important projects such as that of (Carhuaquero) will not be hindered by the suspension of payments to the IDB because the funds that would have been used to pay our debt to the IDB will be used in this project which is so important for our national development. We will ensure the continued implementation of these important projects by reviewing the projects being implemented and establishing their priority.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, what will really happen to the Peruvian economy now that we have been declared ineligible?

[Rivas Davila] We have not been declared ineligible. The IDB has simply suspended their visits to Peru and the disbursement of funds to our country. This situation will automatically change as soon as we pay the total amount we owe. The IDB does not use the term ineligible.

[Reporter] IN other words, the IDB will no longer grant us loans, right? How will we solve...

[Rivas Davila] [Interrupting] Firstly, over the last few months the IDB has not granted us any loan. We have been paying them, but we have not been receiving any money from them. In my opinion, this does not benefit the country. We are going through hard times. If we continue to pay them, we will be using our meager resources to pay debts with money that will not return to the country. In my opinion, this does not help us to solve our economic problems, it simply makes things worse. This is why we decided to suspend the payment of our debt with the IDB

[Reporter] How will we be able to reincorporate Peru into the (?Latin) American development process?

[Rivas Davila] I believe it is indispensable to reincorporate ourselves to this process and to reestablish relations with the IDB. I have held several talks with Dr Enrique Iglesias. We have discussed the possibility of doing so through the obtention of a bridge-loan from the Andean Reserves Fund or from any other international institution. This way, Peru will again receive new money from these institutions.

[Reporter] Peru has no way of paying the $80 million it owes the IDB, right?

[Rivas Davila] Currently we have no means to do so because we are controlling our economy and our meager reserves which, by the way, are increasing. I will soon inform the country on this situation. The Economy and

Finance Ministry will report weekly on the results of this control on our economy. The people will, henceforth, get to know what is being achieved and what difficulties are being found.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] who is in Washington now, is it necessary to pay the debt? Did you receive news on that? What is your opinion about the private sector negotiations [words indistinct] that the bank wants to establish for the exporters to somehow manage to pay our debt to the international creditor banks?

[Rivas Davila] This will be done in a medium term because it cannot be done automatically. Nonetheless, we welcome any proposal aimed at solving this problem. I have heard some radio programs state that Dr Enrique Iglesias is a very good person and that he is willing to help our country. We do not doubt or discuss Dr Iglesias' personal virtues nor his readiness to help our country. This readiness, however, is not resulting in a better understanding of our economy, which needs real support—not just words of support, but also proof that they really want to help Peru.

On 22, 23, and 24 March, there will be a governors meeting in Amsterdam. In this meeting we will very precisely define the Peruvian position regarding a new treatment for foreign capital, particularly in the developing economies such as the Peruvian economy.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, how can we recover the creditors' confidence in our economic policies?

[Rivas Davila] I believe we will recover their confidence as the positive results of our economic program show up. Unfortunately, these results cannot be obtained overnight. We have already said that the country is going through a very serious crisis. We hope to see the first results after June 1989. There are hard times in life, and there are also hard times in a country's history. However, we hope to overcome these hardships in a short while. [end recording]

Garcia on Venezuelan Situation, Debt With IDB

PY0603150589 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia today expressed solidarity with the people and government of Venezuela, saying that last week's events were painful and deplorable. He also expressed his personal and political support for Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. The Chief of State also referred to the IDB's decision to declare Peru ineligible for the institutions's assistance in view of the country's delay in meeting its obligations. Let's hear what the President said:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr President, the Venezuelan Government has already recognized, through its Interior Minister, that more than 240 people have died and 3,000 have been injured during the confrontations between the people and the police. What do you think of the current situation in Venezuela, so soon after Carlos Andres Perez came to power, considering your frinedly bonds with him?

[President Garcia] The recent events are to be deplored and are very painful. So as Latin Americans we have to express our solidarity with the Venezuelan democracy and government, as well as our personal and political support for Carlos Andres Perez. I am convinced that the political leadership and authority of Carlos Andres Perez will soon overcome those painful events. He has inherited a dramatic situation, and I believe that this government must not be held responsible for what happened.

Venezuela has used up its foreign reserves and export revenues in foreign-debt payments. Five years ago Venezuela owed $34 billion. Since then it has paid back $25 billion, and it currently owes more than $32 billion. Venezuela is the only Latin American country that has paid both the interests on the loans and also the principal. For some years, Venezuela used its oil-export earnings to pay the interest and principal of its foreign debt. But when the price of oil fell to one third and Venezuela had a trade deficit, still it continued to make payments with its foreign reserves. After 5 years, consequently, its reserves fell from $13 billion to $6 billion. This is the situation Carlos Andres Perez inherited. He had to straighten out this situation because the country was out of reserve and had suffered the consequences of making large payments for 5 years. I believe that Carlos Andres Perez will now make the appropriate decisions to stabilize his country's economy and to retain for Venezuela a larger share of the dollars that will make it possible to maintain the Venezuelan people's standard of living. He has said that interest payments will be withheld, and I believe that in this way an advance is being made toward the objective set by all Latin Americans: To retain within Latin America a larger share of resources and to stem the drain implied by the payment of the foreign debt, which is ever larger, not because of the inflow of capital, but because interests are mounting.

I believe that Venezuela will overcome this painful situation under the leadership and authority of Carlos Andres Perez.

[Reporter] Mr President, what is your opinion about the IDB decision to declare Peru ineligible, what information do you have, and what is your comment on this?

[President Garcia] There is a delay on Peru's part regarding payments to the IDB, just like it has overdue payments with the IMF. But this is caused by the fact that, to meet our obligations, we first try to obtain new credits from the same institutions so that our country will have a positive inflow of resources. We cannot be told to pay 100 this year in exchange for loans of 50 or 40. This would only reduce the country's reserves. At this time we need a larger amount of reserves; first, to prevent the dollar on the parallel market from climbing steeply as it happened before; and second, to finance the economic reactivation that must be effected this year by importing industrial goods and basic raw materials.

[Reporter] What is the volume of payments in arrears with the IDB, and what is the possibility of improving relations with this institution?

[President Garcia] Payments in arrears stand at more than $70 million. It is not a large sum compared to what the Peruvian Reserve Bank now has. If we pay the $70 million, what resources we will receive from the creditor bank? Which specific projects will it finance? What amount of real money will flow into our country? If we pay 70 to receive 20, or no money is disbursed during this year, it is a bad deal. This is a business problem. I am willing to sacrifice part of our reserves provided a larger amount of dollars will come in in the form of new loans, thereby maintaining a positive relation.

The IDB is headed by a great Latin American, Enrique Iglesias, who was Foreign Minister of Uruguay. When he held that post, he said that the fundamental problem of the foreign debt is to prevent a negative movement of capital; that is, we must not pay more than we receive in new loans. So, I am sure that as IDB president he will maintain the same position, and we should find a way to refinance or renegotiate the overdue debt so that Peru receives from the IDB more dollars than it pays back to the IDB. [passage omitted] [end recording]

IDB Allegedly Grants Bridge Loan

PY0803134389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Reportedly, IDB Chairman Enrique Iglesias has decided to assign four credits to Peru totalling $248 million. Peru will have to pay the IDB this year $140 million for this bridge loan.

This way, Iglesias has demonstrated the goodwill of the IDB toward our country.

Shining Path Group Activities Reported

Kills 5 People in Cuzco

PY0803141689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1942 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Lima, 7 Mar (EFE)—Alledged members of the Shining Path terrorist group have slaughtered three schoolteachers, a schoolboy and a tourist in three small towns in Chumbivilcas Province, Cuzco Department, 1,000 km southeast of Lima.

The newspaper LA OPINION today reported that schoolteachers from the city of Cuzco have said that the crimes occurred on 2 March and that they will not return to their schools as long as their lives are in danger.

On 2 March, alledged Shining Path members entered the school in the town of Quinota and slaughtered schoolteachers Mary Valencia and Elsa Verveno in the presence of students and parents who were registering their children for the school term that will begin in April.

The terrorists charged the schoolteachers with being "traitors to the revolutionary ideals" and threatened to kill the other teachers.

According to LA OPINION, on that same date, another Shining Path terrorist group slaughtered Juan Cusi, a teacher of a school in the town of Santo Tomas, and his 13- year old son because they refused to provide information about a relative of theirs that the terrorists were searching for.

LA OPINION also reports that in Colquemarca, Chumbivilcas Province, Shining Path guerrillas killed a French tourist whose identity has not been disclosed.

Military authorities, however, have not yet confirmed these new murders.

Kills APRA Member

PY0803142389 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Terrorists have killed Jorge Moreno Corso, secretary general of the APRA Provincial Executive Committee, in (Sanches Carrion).

Alledged Shining Path terrorists killed him from behind with shots to the head and lungs.

Moreno Corso, who was also director of La Inmaculada Educational Center, was killed only 5 meters from his house, located 1 block from the (Sanches Carrion) main square.

Security Forces Clash With Subversives

PY0803232589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1520 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Lima, 7 Mar—(EFE)—At least 17 people were killed in armed clashes today in southern Peru and in an attack yesterday in the north. The casualties include 15 subversives, one soldier, and a leader of the governing APRA party.

Official sources reported today that one attack occurred in Sanchez Carrion, Huamachuco Province, when several individuals shot Jorge Moreno Corzo, 65, APRA secretary general of the Provincial Executive Committee.

Mayor Ricardo Woolcot blamed subversives for the killing. He said that the Shining Path has threatened to kill all the officials of Huamachuco. He also recalled that Victor Sotomayor, deputy prefect of Sanchez Carrion, was murdered last January.

In another incident, 15 Shining Path members and 1 Army soldier were killed today in a clash in the southern jungle zone of the country, according to a military communique released in Lima.

The communique indicates that the clash occurred in the Porongo region of Tocache Province, where Colombian and Peruvian drug traffickers have great influence. This region is 750 km southeast of Lima.

The communique gave no details of the clash, but indicated that heavy weapons, homemade bombs, ammunition, and Shining Path subversive propaganda were seized.

Today the Peruvian police presented 30 members of a Shining Path "death command," including three subversives accused of killing Juan Vega Llona, Peruvian naval attache to Bolivia, last December in La Paz.

General Fernando Reyes Roca, director of the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP), reported in a news conference that police have rejected the idea that Peruvian reporters Juan Sanchez Caceres and Aurelio Palao Chavarria participated in that crime.

Reyes said: "The people responsible for killing the Peruvian naval officer are Tania Tineo Sarnavar, Luis Mamani Romero, and Teofilo Aimar Saico."

The Bolivian police, in a report sent to Lima, implicated the reporters as possible members of the group that murdered Vega Llona, because they looked like the murderers and their visit to La Paz coincided with the crime.

Reyes Roca said that with the capture of the 30 subversives the police have dismantled a so-called "Southern Regional Command," responsible for murdering policemen, soldiers, and civilian officials, and for many attacks against private and public enterprises.

Shining Path began its armed struggle in 1980. It has caused the death of at least 15,000 people and material losses of about $12 billion, according to estimates made by Vice President Luis Alberto Sanchez.

'Terrorists' Murder Official in Pasco

PY0803205889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Terrorists have murdered Juan Pomo Alarcon, regional secretary of the Popular Cooperation Agency of Pasco as he was returning home from work.

Pomo Alarcon, 37, was an economist. He leaves a widow and two children. He will be buried in Pasco.

Army Patrol Clashes With 'Narco-Terrorists'

PY0703232489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] An Army patrol has repelled an attack by a narcoterrorist group in the town of Porongo, Tocache Province, achieving an important victory in which 15 subversives, who have not yet been identified, were killed.

The subversive group, made up of about 50 individuals, raided Porongo yesterday at 0500. The subversives were unaware of the presence of an Army patrol in the area. The Army patrol repelled the attack, forcing the subversives to escape.

It has also been reported that during their escape the attackers carried off several of their wounded comrades with them.

Among the forces of order, only one soldier—who was shot in his right leg—was wounded.

The commander's office of the central national security zone today confirmed that 15 subversives, who have not yet been identified, were killed in the clash.

Police Confiscate Smuggled Weapons, Ammunition

PY0803145389 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] During operations conducted at the (Buchano) toll booth and at the 91 kilometer marker of the Panamericana Sur Highway, the police have confiscated a large quantity of weapons and ammunition that were being smuggled into Lima.

The 7th Police Division has reported that the weapons were to be sold on the black market, and that they had been brought from the southern border.

Stranded Antarctic Ship Resumes Sailing

PY0603152789 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The Peruvian scientific ship "Humboldt," which had been stranded in the Mariana inlet since last Sunday, was rescued at approximately 1700 this afternoon and it resumed sailing under its own power toward the Porter inlet.

With assistance from the Chilean tugboat "(Ayelcho)" and a team of Chilean and Peruvian divers, the "Humboldt" was pulled free at high tide.

The ship's rescue was celebrated by the crew who have been lodged at the Chilean Contra Almirante Marsh Navy base. The Peruvian crew returned to the ship to resume normal sailing.

This news was provided tonight by Navy Captain Fernando Cassaretto from the Navy Ministry Information Directorate.

Uruguay

Fishing Deal With Argentina Sought

PY0603174689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1834 GMT 4 Mar 89

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 4 Mar (EFE)—The foreign ministers of Uruguay and Argentina are trying to overcome the diplomatic conflicts created by the Argentine refusal to allow Uruguayan ships to fish in Argentine waters and by the British pressure to break the Malvinas Islands' isolation through Uruguay.

Difficulties have increased in the past few months following the failure of a fishing agreement.

The binational fishing committee of the River Plate and the common waters also ceased meeting.

Aware of Uruguayan problems when the hake migrate to Argentine waters in the summertime, the United Kingdom has tried to weaken the Uruguayan Government's support to Argentina on the Malvinas Islands issue.

Following the failure of negotiations with Argentina, Uruguayan businessmen are also pressuring their government to obtain permission to fish in the British exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands.

Uruguay could eventually reach an agreement with the United Kingdom only if it allows the ships operating in the Malvinas Islands to use Uruguayan ports and airports.

Despite the discretion with which the two foreign ministries are working, they have tried to "pacify feelings." They acknowledge, however, the importance of the pressure of the private businessmen.

On the one hand, the Uruguayans want permission to fish in Argentine waters when the hake migrates south in summer, and on the other hand, Argentine businessmen demand that their government maintain the fishing prohibition on foreign ships.

During their last meeting on 2 February, the Foreign Ministers of Uruguay and Argentina, Luis Barrios Tassano and Dante Caputo, respectively, signed a report that did not give details of their talks, but which stressed "the excellent state" of relations.

Minister Barrios Tassano soon afterward, however, admitted to the local media that the fishing agreement with Argentina has failed for the time being.

"Argentina has not authorized any Uruguayan fishing ship to operate in its waters," Barrios Tassano said, adding that the prohibitions are for every country, without detriment to the agreements "especially signed with some European countries like the Soviet Union and Romania."

Barrios Tassano said that the Uruguayan Government "is trying to stimulate exporting activity, and therefore, given the fact that fishing diminishes substantially in summer thus jeopardizing the jobs of 10,000 workers, our permanent concern is to create a framework in which to find a solution that will allow Uruguayan businessmen to obtain fish and thus to continue production in their factories." "That is the subject about which we talked, and about which we wish to continue talking" with Argentina, Barrios Tassano said. He stressed that the Argentine Foreign Ministry is interested in cooperating.

The Uruguayan foreign minister said "we will probably not solve the problem in the next few months, but we must keep discussing it."

Alberto Giambruno, director of the Uruguayan Fishing Institute, has said that an alternative solution has been tried in face of the Argentine prohibition.

According to Giambruno, Uruguay has asked Argentina to supply hake in the summer, but they delivered only 70,000 tons of the 310,000 tons Uruguay usually fishes annually in the River Plate common waters and in Uruguayan waters.

Uruguay fishes between 80,000 and 85,000 tons of hake in its own waters in winter from March to November.

The British have not ignored these problems and have tested Uruguayan reaction with the emergency landing of British planes on their way to the Malvinas Islands and with the "non regular" operations of the "Indiana I" ferry boat which navigates between the Malvinas Islands, the port of Montevideo, and the Chilean port of Punta Arenas.

In less than a year, three British military planes made "emergency landings" in the Carrasco airport of Uruguay. The last emergency landing on 10 February was not caused by bad weather conditions. On that occasion the plane reported that it was unable to land in the Malvinas Islands and therefore unable to load fuel for its return to base in the Ascension Islands.

The Uruguayan Foreign Ministry said that the landings were authorized for "humanitarian reasons."

Regarding the "Indiana I" ferry boat, it was pointed out that it is a boat with a neutral Bahamian flag, and its "irregular" arrival is considered within the international law of freedom of ports.

One hundred and sixty six ships from Japan, Spain, Italy, Greece, Taiwan, and Poland, which operate in the British exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands, are based in the port of Montevideo which supplies them with provisions.

Regional Integration Summit To Be Held Soon

PY0303171389 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources have said that another summit of the presidents of Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil could be held during April or May 1989 in our country. The summit would permit a review of the integration agreements signed by the three countries, and offer the possibility to look into new ways to strengthen trade.

This information was released following the meeting between Foreign Minister Barrios Tassano and Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo at the presidential ranch in Anchorena. [Passage omitted]

National Foreign Debt Totals $6.1 Billion

PY0603125089 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] A Central Bank bulletin has officially reported that at the beginning of 1989, the Uruguayan foreign debt totals $6.1 billion.

1988 Trade Surplus Totals $259 Million

PY0803112289 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The Uruguayan trade surplus for 1988 was $259 million. According to the Presidential Press Secretariat, this figure represents an all-time record.

Venezuela

Government Restores Constitutional Guarantees

PA0903004889 Paris AFP in Spanish 2357 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 8 Mar (AFP)—Venezuelan Central Information Director Pastor Heydra has reported that constitutional guarantees were restored in the country tonight.

This decision was made at a meeting between Social Democrat President Carlos Andres Perez and his cabinet.

Constitutional guarantees had been suspended on 28 February when riots and looting shook the country.

Restores Individual Rights

PA0903013589 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The cabinet has agreed to restore individual rights as of tomorrow. Central Information Office Director Pastor Heydra added that a statement will be sent tomorrow to the Congress explaining the reasons for this decision.

[Begin Heydra recording] The situation in the country is absolutely normal. The cabinet decided to send a statement to the Congress tomorrow explaining the reasons for suspending individual rights. The message also explains to the Congress that the executive branch believes it is suitable to restore legal rights now because the situation has returned to normal. Thus, it is not justified to continue to have these kinds of measures. [end recording]

Perez on Latin American Situation, Problems

PY0603193489 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Feb 89, Sunday Supplement pp 14, 15

["Exclusive" interview with President Carlos Andres Perez by Marcel Niedergang in Caracas; no date given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Question] When do you expect to meet President Bush?

[Answer] I initiated talks with him when I visited Washington last December. At that time he and I were both presidents-elect. From my point of view it was a very positive conversation. We will now prepare a new meeting to talk about the debt and about the Central American situation. We must also expedite negotiations to prepare a meeting of the Group of Eight with the U.S. President, as well as with the EEC and the Japanese prime minister. This is a need that must be met in the short term.

[Question] Do you think that Bush' Latin American policy could be different from that of his predecessor?

[Answer] Obviously, a change of policy is not easy. Bush has been Reagan's vice president and Baker one of his main advisers. But the change of the administrative team is a great advantage of democracy, even when the same party remains in control of the Executive Branch. This allows the recognition of mistakes and the correction of policy. That is what I was able to see in my first interview with Bush. He did not tell me clearly that he would change positions, but he made me understand that he is willing to reconsider some things. I prefer to keep in mind this statement rather than the other one, much harder and classic, made by the U.S. representative in Davos, last January. [passage omitted]

[Question] Gorbachev is expected in Cuba and in other South American countries in April. It is a trip that has been delayed several times...

[Answer] I have invited him to visit Venezuela, and he will be welcomed on this tour of Latin America. The atmosphere of optimism in the world is without doubt owed to the Soviet leader, whose speech about the foreign debt at the United Nations is a model. Detente cannot be explained only by political reasons. The Soviet Union and the United States have imperative but different reasons for maintaining a lasting peace. This detente greatly favors developing countries and it facilitates the conclusion of several regional conflicts. Therefore, why not in Central America?

[Question] Do you believe in Cuba's complete reintegration with Latin America?

[Answer] It is on the way. The Cuban democratization process is somehow on the way to developing. Slowly perhaps, but it will take place. The withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola also has important repercussions in the United States. I think that in Washington, after the agreements on Namibia and Angola, there is a more favorable atmosphere of detente toward Havana. Fidel Castro is an intelligent man who wants to play a significant role in the world and in Latin America. Naturally, he has analyzed the evolution of events and the new relation of forces, and although he does not admit or want perestroyka, it is evident that he is concerned with undertaking important changes.

[Question] What conclusions did you draw from your talks with the Central American leaders in Caracas?

[Answer] If Daniel Ortega maintains the same points of view he maintained here in Caracas, I am sure that the way for a real dialogue is open, and the Esquipulas II agreement will be successful. Having said this, the real problem lies between the United States and the Sandinistas. If Washington adopts a comprehensive attitude and trusts in the Central American presidents and in the leaders of the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group, then I am sure that we will find a solution.

[Question] And El Salvador?

[Answer] I am sure that if we find a solution to the Nicaraguan problem we will also solve the Salvadoran one. The FMLN leadership groups have expressed their willingness to participate in the elections. Although so far their proposal has not been accepted, I think it could be negotiated.

[Question] Do you think the Sandinistas are willing to step into democracy?

[Answer] I would say more than that: they have no choice. The situation in their country has reached dramatic levels. Their economy is in ruins. In turn, the United States must admit that their policy for Nicaragua has failed. In the face of this reality, democracy is the only way out. I know of President Bush' good will, and I do not see why we should doubt Gorbachev's positive reaction, since he is interested in a solution for Central America.

IMF Head on International Support for Measures

PA0803183689 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] IMF Director Michel Camdessus believes that Venezuela cannot face its problems alone without the assurance of adequate support from the international financial community. Camdessus' statements came in response to the letter Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez sent to this leading international financial organization.

In his message, Camdessus expressed concern over the suffering caused by recent events and over the innocent victims of the oppressive crisis. The government has adopted necessary measures, Camdesus said, measures that were too long delayed and that, of course, now seem even harsher because of recent events.

The text of the IMF letter to President Perez states: You have courageously avoided the illusory path of gradually implementing measures. The IMF has confirmed that your measures have been well thought out and supports them.

It is evident, Camdessus said, that Venezuela cannot face the current situation alone without adequate support from the international financial community. Undoubtedly, all who support the cooperative strategy of overcoming the debt problem through growth will offer their support. This support, in Camdessus' opinion, is justified because in times of prosperity, Venezuela used its resources to help countries undergoing difficulties.

Camdessus' letter to President Perez emphasizes the IMF's efforts to attain international financing for Venezuela to complement IMF financing. He adds that now that international support for Venezuela's economic adjustment program is being sought, investment opportunities that are being created should encourage Venezuelan savers who have sent their assets abroad to redeposit them in Venezuela, thus creating jobs for their fellow countrymen and becoming the first to acknowledge that their country is the land of opportunity.

Regarding the support President Perez requested of the IMF for the economic adjustment program, Camdessus said that financing should be sufficient to ensure that increased domestic savings will enable Venezuela to finance its basic expenditures and investments, thus sustaining economic growth and gradually reducing the debt, which pleases creditors. Finally, Camdessus said that this letter is a modest sign of the IMF's determination to support Venezuela's economic adjustment program.

* Energy, Mines Minister Discusses New Policies

33480220c Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
3 Feb 89 p D-9

[Report by Omar Lugo: "No More Oil Industry Internationalization Agreements Will Be Signed"]

[Text] The economic cabinet as a whole will unquestionably decide the timing and levels of the new prices of gasoline, other hydrocarbons derivatives and energy services. This was clarified by the new minister of energy and mines, Celestino Armas, when he was interviewed moments after taking over the ministry that until yesterday was in the hands of Julio Cesar Gil.

"No decision has been made. We have to gauge the effects in the context of the economy and seek compensatory measures so that any adjustment in the price of public services is offset by more efficient service for the customers, who may have to pay more," he said.

Moments before, Armas had indicated in his speech that it would be up to his ministry to make the difficult decision about adjusting petrochemical and fertilizer prices on the domestic market, as this will influence the cost of living. It will be President Perez' decision within the framework of the understanding, he added.

He let it be known that the Energy and Mines Ministry and the enterprises have set up a commission that will study a new schedule of electric power rates. "This commission could be the embryo of a national electric-power holding company, so that through greater cooperation among the enterprises we can make this dream come true to optimize investment."

Job Stability

Armas gave assurances that he would guarantee "by virtue of the ministry's proud heritage, the stability of its personnel at all levels, both those who work inside it and those who work for the operating companies."

"We will look into ways of halting the drain of manpower that has occurred in the affiliates." He guaranteed that there would be continuity among management personnel and human resources in general: "We will maintain the meritocracy as the only guideline for promotions and, as has been traditional in this office, we will prevent its politicization."

Internationalization of the Industry

Armas underscored his interest in pursuing a comprehensive energy policy that "will not belong to a single ministry, nor to a government, nor to a party; rather, it will belong to all of Venezuela in the petrochemical, mining and petroleum sectors." He emphasized the role that the National Congress will be playing through the Energy and Mines Committee, as well as the role of former presidents, former ministers and former directors of PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.], who will be consulted and briefed before any decision that could compromise the country's economy is made.

He indicated that the New Energy and Mines Law would be discussed in this context; he described the first draft of the law, which was put together after intensive consultations with advisers and experts from different sectors, as flexible, innovative and far from controversial.

As for the internationalization of the oil industry, he recalled that the contracted programs (with Venezuelan participation in overseas refineries) have already managed to place 600,000 barrels a day of crude oil. "As President Perez has said, and I share this position, at Venezuela's current output levels, this amount is enough. We are going to direct our new efforts towards the domestic sector to establish the new negotiations here for the reasons that have already been cited: to create jobs, so that a higher value added remains, to take advantage of technologies. Of course any internal association of this nature will also have to assure export markets."

"This does not mean that the level of OPEC quotas and, of course, Venezuela's will not gradually increase in a few years as market prices stabilize and the economies of the industrialized countries post sustained growth. We will then have to see in light of the future whether new associations overseas are a good idea," he noted.

With OPEC and Without OPEC

Armas emphasized that the Energy and Mines Ministry would be the engine of international relations in petroleum matters, as it has been over the past 5 years. He said that he was interested in enhancing communication and participation with OPEC and reaffirmed the decision to strive for a summit meeting "to give OPEC back its solidity and discipline, as a strategy on the way to the year 2000."

He also stressed the need for a hemispheric energy policy, especially with the United States, our main market. "We will bolster our relationship above and beyond petroleum, in a more sincere and frank manner for the benefit of the market and for the marketing of oil."

As for the industry's presence on Aruba and Trinidad, which are regarded as strategic geographic areas, he stressed the need for closer relations.

Mines

In the mining sector Armas proposes a comprehensive policy that will streamline this activity, which he described as "problematic." He announced close cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources to halt the ecological deterioration of mining areas and even to intensify the programs that PDVSA and its affiliates are pursuing in this regard.

"We need to create a technical climate for the appropriate exploitation not only of gold and diamonds but also nonmetal ores, even the virgin mines of tantalite in Amazonas. So far there have only been proposals to be processed. We are going to create a working environment that will enable us to exploit these resources as quickly as possible and bring them into the country's economic mainstream," he added.

* Miguel Rodriguez on Cordiplan's New Role

33480220a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
3 Feb 89 p D-7

[Report by Agustin Beroes: "First $500 Million From IMF Will Enter the Country in March"]

[Text] After being sworn in as the new minister of state, chief of the Central Office of Coordination and Planning [Cordiplan] of the Presidency of the Republic, Miguel Antonio Rodriguez announced that the first funds from the IMF would enter the country this March.

This $500-million line of credit is the first share of Venezuela's own funds that are on deposit with the multilateral financial organization and, in turn, are part of the country's nonoperating reserves.

This is the first installment of a total of $1.7 billion from the IMF that Venezuela will receive quarterly in 1989.

The initial $500 million is a first draft on our national reserves in the IMF. The remaining $1.2 billion will come under a special arrangement between the republic and the IMF, and the new minister noted that he plans to speed up the terms of agreement between the two parties as much as possible.

In a brief address to upper Cordiplan management, Miguel Antonio Rodriguez stated that he was taking up his post at a moment that was rife with difficulties. He indicated that whereas in the recent past there were difficulties amid abundance, there was more reason than ever now to make major efforts to put the economy on a new and positive track.

He stressed once again that a series of macroeconomic imbalances and distortions of every kind had to be corrected, adding, however, that he believed that the country still had the resources and the potential to make headway.

The Cordiplan minister emphasized that from now on the office would play a role of "starring supremacy" and that President Carlos Andres Perez has asked Cordiplan to become the the main instrument for formulating and carrying out economic policy in Venezuela. He called on the entire staff to make every technical, professional and human effort to meet their assigned responsibilities.

He also told the technical team that the office would return soon to Miraflores, to the site of the White Palace. He concluded his brief address by promising Venezuela and the staff that "he would not let them down."

The outgoing minister, Modesto Freites, bidding farewell to Cordiplan, wished Miguel Rodriguez every success, emphasizing that it was a very important and positive institutional fact that an executive who had previously been trained in Cordiplan was now taking over as the head of the organization, and he praised the personal, professional and technical talents of the new minister.

Aside from reopening his private office for economic affairs, Freites will focus all of his energies in the political arena on again becoming governor of Guarico State.

The outgoing director general, Jovito Martinez Guarda, also handed over his office on this occasion to the new deputy minister of Cordiplan, Cecilia Garmendia de Briceno.

She comes from a lengthy university teaching career and from very important management posts in the Banco Republica. Martinez Guarda will return to prominent posts in the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana, from which he had been on loan to Cordiplan for more than a year now.

The highest-ranking guests whom Miguel Rodriguez invited to the ceremony at which power was transferred from Modesto Freites to him were Gumersindo Rodriguez, his teacher, and Americo Martin.

* Finance Minister on Income Tax, IMF Accord

* Tax Reforms

33480219 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
3 Feb 89 p D-7

[Article by Amado Fuguet V.]

[Text] Eglee Iturbe de Blanco, who yesterday replaced Hector Hurtado as finance minister, announced a tax reform program that involves increasing the minimum annual wage base to which the individual income tax will be applied.

She stated that in addition, a sales tax will be levied, and that the categories of tax exemptions will be adjusted so that those who earn less will pay less in taxes.

She also reported that a new enterprise will be created to speed up the privatization of enterprises now under state management, and that the Venezuelan Corporation for Development (CVF) will be eliminated in March.

Speaking on the occasion of the transfer of power at the Finance Ministry, Iturbe de Blanco stated that "the responsibility I assume today poses a formidable challenge."

"The years to come and the one we have just begun will be years of adjustment, course correction, reorientation of the productive process, and reinforcement of the role of the state in a way that we are unaccustomed to, and under different economic circumstances."

She went on to say that "we have left behind a period of indiscriminate import substitution, excessive protection, casuistic administration of policies, excessive state paternalism, and abundant fiscal revenues.

"Now it is time for us to promote the strengthening of the atrophied private sector. Now it is time for us to dismantle the excessive controls and regulations. Now it is time for us to support without intervening, to promote without participating, to oversee without repressing. It will not be easy. The country is used to the other way of doing things, the easy way: asking the government to solve all problems, waiting for solutions, not solving them for ourselves."

Speaking about his term in office, Hector Hurtado stated that the work done in the last 15 ½ months was affected by two fundamental exogenous factors: the decline in oil prices and the service of the foreign debt. These factors acted in concert with revenues and expenditures as limiting forces on public spending.

"Changing this situation entailed actions outside the purview of the Venezuelan Government. Oil prices depended on, and depend on, OPEC's ability to discipline itself, to limit production to levels that will reduce the glut on the market, and to achieve whatever cooperation it can with non-OPEC producers. A new treatment of the public debt required and continues to require, as we can see at present, agreements with multilateral financial institutions and the application of an adjustment program. Due to the complexities of such a program, a national consensus must be reached, and this consensus would not have been possible in the heated electoral debate of last year.

"For this reason, in addition to the efforts that yielded concrete results, in the form of external financing and national development projects, which translated into the conclusion of transactions for a total of $3.994 billion, I concentrated my activity on making whatever improvements could be made in the organization of the ministry during such a limited time, and on establishing well-defined policies and actions in certain areas, including the following:

- Limiting the concession of tax exemptions, in accordance with the principle that taxes are for collecting and not for exempting.
- Promoting the modernization of the Ministry's activities, mechanizing its operations, and picking up the thread of the actions along these lines that I was able to take during my period at Finance under the administration of Carlos Andres Perez.
- Establishing the system of self-liquidation in Customs, which has improved collections.
- Stepping up enforcement of the income tax, especially in the area of real estate transactions.
- Drafting legislation on the Partial Reform of the Income Tax and on the new income tax, as part of the necessary modernization of the tax system that modern Venezuela so desperately needs.
- Taking special action to eliminate delays in payments early in the execution of the budget, for which we had the decisive support of the General Comptrollership of the Nation.
- Adjusting tariffs and surcharges for a period of 1 year on certain goods to limit their importation.
- Eliminating the guarantee of the current exchange rate for imports for the opening of letters of credit.

"The 'shock' treatment incorporated into the program will undoubtedly put our officials, businessmen, workers, and consumers to a true test of their understanding and acceptance of the fact that the naturally recessive initial effects of the program will be offset in the future by improved levels of economic activity and social well-being. The execution of the program will also demand careful coordination of the actions taken by the members of the Economic Cabinet in order to avoid inertia in the decision-making system."

* IMF Agreement

33480219 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 29 Jan 89 p D-4

[Article by Omar Lugo]

[Text] Finance Minister Eglee Iturbe de Blanco declared yesterday that the letter of intent for a financial assistance agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will not be signed this week. "So far the specific amounts and dates have not been set. We have not reached full agreement; this is a process that we are still discussing."

She indicated that the talks are going very well, and they have found great receptivity and a good attitude. Nevertheless, she declined to go into detail, pointing out that "until there is a final agreement—which will be revealed in due time—it is not appropriate to comment. That would create confusion and harden positions in the talks with the financial institutions, which are very sensitive. For this reason, it is preferable to maintain a low profile in that regard."

In addition to the IMF, Venezuela is also holding talks with various banks and the Federal Reserve of the United States. "The more resources we have, the more facilities we will have for implementing the economic program we have proposed," she added.

She explained, however, that different kinds of loans are being discussed for eventual agreement with the IMF: the use of an initial series of unconditional credits (this would include the reserves of approximately $1.5 billion that Venezuela has in the IMF); access to credit under the "standby" method (a more rigid, short-term loan, to be paid off perhaps in a year); and a long-term EEF [not further identified] credit with broader financing. The latter type includes a term of 3 years for providing the credit and a maximum term of 10 years for reimbursement.

Eglee de Blanco explained that before studying these possibilities, an agreement will be reached with the IMF that will be a sort of package including the three types of credit in varying combinations. "That is why, until there is a final agreement, we can't talk about any of them as a definite possibility, because the three are part of a single financing scheme for the economic program to be implemented by the new government."

With regard to the bridge loan that Venezuela is seeking, she declined to reveal the amount. She did point out, however, that it is expected to be approved by the beginning of the government's program, and that the terms of this loan will depend on the negotiations that are still ongoing.

Various national sectors have expressed concern that Venezuela has had to resort to the IMF, because in countries where its terms have been imposed the results have been disastrous, with extremely high social and economic costs. In response to this concern, the finance minister stated that Venezuela's circumstances are completely different, and moreover, the IMF seems to have made its prescriptions a little more flexible.

"The pact with the IMF will not have the same economic and social repercussions it had in other Latin American countries that have turned to it for credit. We are going to the IMF with a healthy balance of payments compared to the situation that other countries in the region were in. We are turning to it for help, in order to reinforce the economic program we have proposed, not as a last resort for our economy," she indicated.

"In Latin America, there is no other country that is in the same situation as Venezuela. The conditions imposed by the IMF have been highly restrictive because they are aimed at closing the fiscal gap, which has been very large in those economies. Here the fiscal gap is small, and that is why the Fund's policies will not have the same restrictive effects."

"It is easier to undertake adjustment policies in our situation, and that is why we have better prospects. We have turned to the IMF in order to support the government's economic program, to cover the budget deficit, and to improve the balance of payments," stressed the minister. She ruled out any trips abroad in the next few days, because she will devote her energies to taking over the ministry that is now formally under her direction.

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